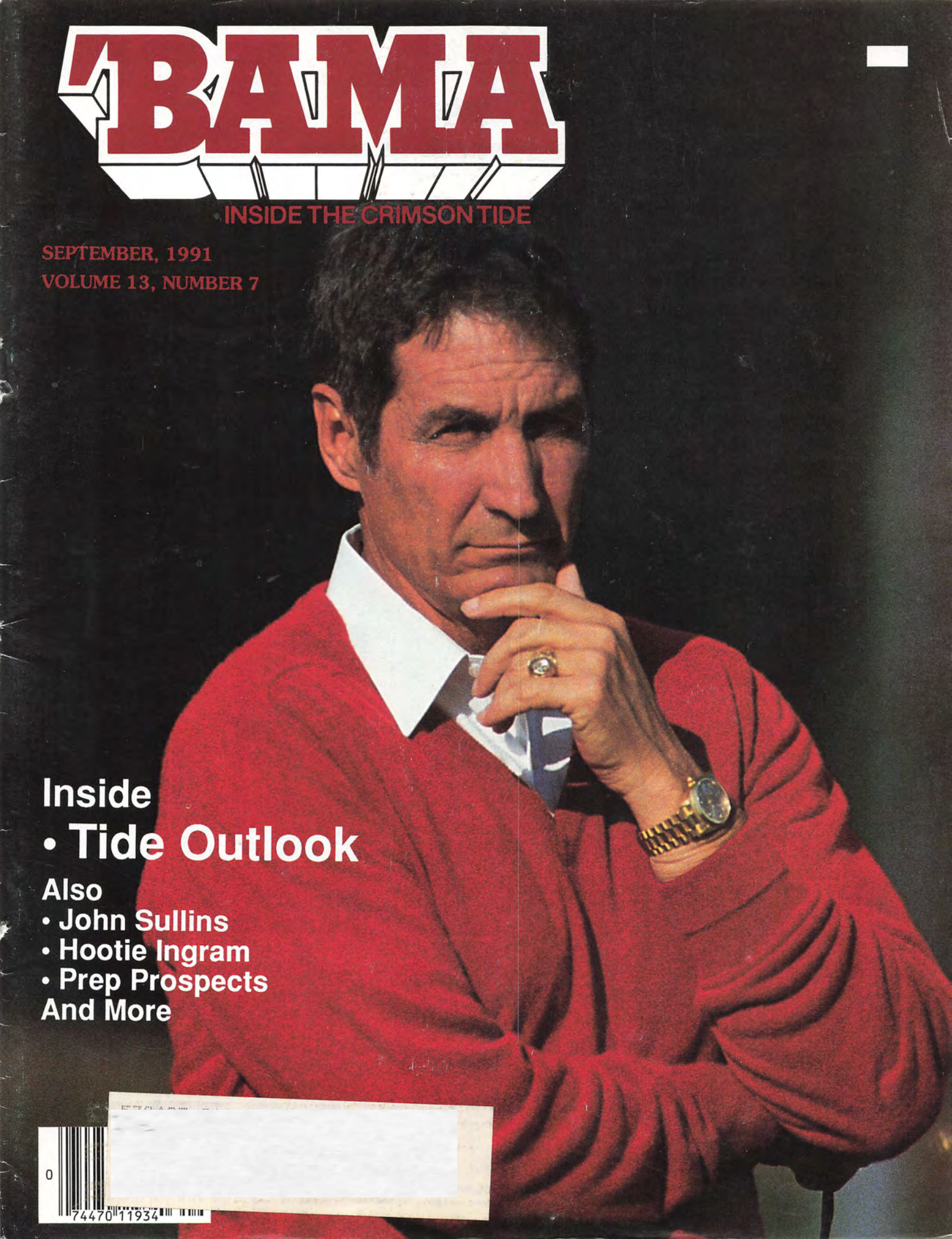
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

SEPTEMBER, 1991
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 7



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1991-92 Tide Cage Schedule

The Southeastern Conference portion of Alabama's 1991-92 basketball schedule is unquestionably the highlight of the slate. Although there are a couple of top teams on the road, particularly in tournaments, the home fare outside of SEC competition is not as attractive. The exception: Virginia on Sunday, December 1.

The Crimson Tide of Coach Wimp Sanderson will open the season November 23 at Davidson, the first time since 1987 when Bama traveled to Northeast Louisiana that Alabama will have opened on the road. In addition to Davidson, Bama goes to Biloxi, Mississippi, to play Southern Miss and also plays at Texas A&M. A couple of tournaments offer a challenge. In the Tournament of Champions at Charlotte, North Carolina, Bama will meet North Carolina State the first night on December 6. The next night foe will be either host North Carolina-Charlotte or DePaul. In the Rainbow Classic in Honolulu, Bama opens against Bradley on December 28. A win in that game would probably pit the Tide against Villanova in the semifinals on December 29. Each team plays three games in the Rainbow.

Other non-conference Coleman Coliseum opponents are Tennessee Tech, UT-Chattanooga, Old Dominion, The Citadel and Northeastern Illinois. There are also two exhibition games, against a Czechoslovakian team on November 14 and against a team called High Five America November 18.

In the SEC, the first year for the new 12-team, 16-game format (as opposed to 18 league games in the old 10-team league), Bama will play home-and-home with the other five members of the West Division (Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State). The Tide got the short end of the stick in its games against the East Division teams. Bama has to play the three toughies–Georgia, South Carolina and Kentucky–on the road, while the Tide hosts Florida, Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

All Saturday home games will begin at 1:30 p.m. CST unless television dictates a change. The complete television schedule and starting times are expected to be announced later.

The 1992 SEC Basketball Tournament, which Bama has won three years in a row and four of the past five years, will be March 12-15 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center with the winner receiving the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. That will be Bama's only appearance in Birmingham this year.

NCAA Tournament first and second round games will be March 19-22, Regional semifinals and finals will be March 26-29, and the Final Four in Minneapolis is April 4 and April 6.

Alabama Basketball

Nov. 14	Czech National (Exh.)
Nov. 18	High 5 America (Exh.)
Nov. 23	@ Davidson
Nov. 27	Tennessee Tech
Dec. 1	Virginia
Dec. 3	U-T Chattanooga
	Tournament of Champions
Dec. 6	North Carolina State
Dec. 7	UNC-Charlotte or DePaul
Dec. 14	Old Dominion
Dec. 18	The Citadel
Dec. 21	@ Southern Miss (Biloxi)
	*Rainbow Classic
Dec. 28	Bradley
Dec. 29	TBA
Dec. 30	TBA
Jan. 4	@ Miss. State
Jan. 8	Arkansas
Jan. 11	Northeast Ill.
Jan. 14	LSU
Jan. 18	@ Auburn
Jan. 22	Ole Miss
Jan. 25	@ Georgia
Jan. 29	@ South Carolina
Feb. 1	Florida
Feb. 5	@ Texas A&M
Feb. 9	Tennessee
Feb. 12	@ Kentucky
Feb. 19	Vanderbilt
Feb. 22	@ Arkansas
Feb. 25	Miss. State
Feb. 29	@ LSU
March 4	@ Ole Miss
March 7	Auburn
March 12-15	SEC Tournament
	@ Birmingham

*Other teams in Rainbow Classic: Fresno State, Hawaii, Navy, Villanova, Washington State, Wisconsin

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'BAMA
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE
SEPTEMBER, 1991 VOLUME 13, NUMBER 7

CONTENTS

On The Cover: Gene Stallings begins his second season as Alabama's head football coach September 7. Stallings and Alabama followers are hoping for a better beginning in 1991 than in 1990. The Tide has worked hard in the hot August weather in preparation for this season. See Page 6.

Barry Fikes Photo

Page 6

Page 16

Page 20

Page 25

1991 Football Outlook:
More Strengths Than Questions 6
Alabama appears ready to compete on a high level as both returning players and newcomers have been impressive in preseason practices. There are still a few questions, but for the most part the outlook should be one of optimism. **by Kirk McNair**

Dabo Swinney:
He's Making A Name For Himself 12
Dabo Swinney has an unforgettable name and being a member of the Alabama football team has been an unforgettable experience for the walk-on wide receiver. He hopes his persistence pays off with more playing time. **by Donald F. Staffo**

Matthew Pine:
His Job Is No Snap 14
Sophomore Matthew Pine doesn't want the fans to notice the job he does because he knows the only time anyone knows the name of the snapper is when there's a bad snap. He's back for his second year in that critical position on punts. **by Mike Herndon**

John Sullins:
Defensive Star Faces Last Chance 16
John Sullins, Alabama's senior inside linebacker, has proved himself with 1990 All-Southeastern Conference recognition. This year he's looking for big things for the Bama football team and for himself. **by Donald F. Staffo**

The State Of The Tide:
Hootie Likes What He Sees 20
Alabama Athletics Director Cecil "Hootie" Ingram is working to make the Crimson Tide championship caliber in all sports and in the classroom. **by Kirk McNair**

Cross Country Outlook:
Tide Has To Overcome Bad Luck 22
David Troy has kept Alabama's men's and women's cross country teams among the nation's best, but this year's teams will have to overcome adversity, season-ending injuries to top performers. **by Becky Hopf**

History Of Alabama Athletics:
'71 Tide Got Off On Right Foot 25
Things were not good for Alabama football prior to the opening of the 1971 season, but 20 years ago Coach Bryant made a decision to change the offense and no change ever looked so good in the won-loss column. It started with a bang, too. **by Kirk McNair**

The Departments
1991-92 Basketball Schedule 4
1991 Football Roster 10
Readership Survey 23
Prep Prospects 24
Scorecard 28
Tide Football Opponents' Schedules 30

1991 Football Outlook:

More Strengths Than Questions

by Kirk McNair

There are some concerns, but overall there is reason for optimism in 1991

Are there questions about this Alabama football team as the 1991 season approaches? You bet your Tide Pride license plate there are. And some of those questions became particularly poignant following a pair of scrimmages on the new Prescription Athletic Turf grass of Bryant-Denny Stadium as the Tide neared the two-week countdown to kickoff.

After a very exciting first week of Crimson Tide football fall (as much as August in Tuscaloosa can be considered fall) practice, the second week was less the stuff from which optimism springs. Owing primarily to the quarterback situation specifically and to offensive performance generally, it would be hard to say that Alabama's football team made progress as it went from three weeks to two weeks until the season-opener. The Tide held two scrimmages during the week, one on Thursday, August 22, and one on Saturday, August 24, and in both cases Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings instructed the press not to report specific statistics from the scrimmages. Later he allowed a few statistics to be released, such as Siran Stacy's yardage on very limited activity (seven rushes for 52 yards Thursday, six carries for 45 yards Saturday).

Many suspected that Stallings censored the statistics because he expected the inept performance of the offense. In truth, he didn't set the first scrimmage up in a fair manner, at least for senior quarterback Danny Woodson. In the second scrimmage neither Woodson nor redshirt freshman Jay Barker participated. There is no question those two are the front-runners for the quarterback job and it would appear that nothing short of injury could alter that. Of course, the events of the second scrimmage proved that injury could alter the quarterback situation. Woodson missed that scrimmage because of a banged knee, an injury suffered in Friday's workout. Woodson did not dress in football gear Saturday (he was in shorts and earring) and he did nothing more strenuous than a little walking. Barker missed the scrimmage because of a shoulder injury suffered in the Thursday scrimmage. However, Barker did practice Friday and he was in full gear Saturday. One could be led to believe that Barker could have practiced Saturday because an injured football player does not ordinarily dress out. However, it is possible that Stallings knew the radio talk shows and street talk would have Barker as the quarterback, Woodson getting ready to quit, and the rest of such rumor that surrounds Alabama football if Barker participated and Woodson did not. As a result, the quarterback duties fell to three freshmen, two of them walkons, in Saturday's scrimmage. Redshirt freshman Danny Davis and true freshman Chad Key were the walkons, while true freshman Brian Burgdorf was the only scholarshipped quarterback participating in the Saturday scrimmage. Later Stallings said he planned to let sophomore Steve Christopher, who was out of football last year for academic reasons, participate, but Stallings admitted he was worried about getting players hurt with a long scrimmage.

Burgdorf had done well in Thursday's work as he quarterbacked the third offense against the third defense, but he had less success with the first offense against the second defense on Saturday. Any casual observer of only the Saturday scrimmage would conclude, first of all, that none of the three freshmen is capable of running the Alabama offense and, secondly, that if one is pressed into service it should probably be Key, who has a much stronger arm than either Burgdorf or Davis.

The real quarterback battle, though, is between Woodson and Barker and it is impossible for an outsider to predict who will get the nod. A reasonable school of thought is that Woodson must be ahead of Barker to get the starting job, that if they are equal Barker will be picked because he has four years of eligibility remaining, Woodson only one. If Barker is ahead he will certainly be the quarterback. So who is ahead? For the first week of practice it appeared that Woodson, who is bigger, stronger, faster and who has a stronger arm, was pulling away. Then Barker seemed to catch up and, perhaps, edge ahead. After the Thursday scrimmage it was impossible to say. Woodson didn't have a chance as he quarterbacked the second offense against the first defense and spent the day scrambling for his life. Nevertheless, he didn't help himself with a handful of fumbles in that situation. On the other hand, Barker didn't take much advantage of his opportunity of quarterbacking the first offense against the second defense.

It had been expected that something might be resolved in the Saturday scrimmage, or at least something learned. Had Woodson again been put with the second offense, that might have been a clue. Indeed, following Thursday's scrimmage Stallings said it would be reasonable to come to a conclusion about the quarterback race based on his decision to put Barker with the first offense, Woodson with the second. At the time he also said he might–with an emphasis on the might–put Woodson with the first offense and Barker with the second offense on Saturday. Now we'll have to wait for the next scrimmage to see if there is anything to read into the placement of the quarterbacks: Had Stallings known that neither Woodson nor Barker was going to be able to participate Saturday, he probably would have delayed that scrimmage. Stallings indicated he would have his final scrimmage before the season opener no later than Saturday, August 31.

So does the quarterback situation mean the situation is hopeless for this year's team? Almost certainly not. But that does mean there are not other troubling questions. While attention is focused on the critical quarterback position, there are other areas of concern to the Alabama coaching staff. A primary concern is the offensive line. In Thursday's scrimmage it

The Missing

There were a few players expected to report to drills this fall who did not make it. Tailback Robert Jones, who was dismissed from the team last spring, did not report. Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings announced that two players expected to return were academically ineligible. They are running back Junior Sewell and safety Derrick Nesbitt. Some others not returning were tight end Darrell Miller, who left the team last spring but who was expected to return, and walkon quarterback Scott Etter.

Defensive lineman Chuck Aaron is back, but still unable to practice. Defensive lineman Jason Milner has been able to participate on a limited basis. Neither will play this year. Additionally, linebacker Keith Neighbors was forced to give up football because of a chronic shoulder injury and he has student coach status with the team. Defensive back Darren Greenwood is also sidelined by injury.

As expected, three freshmen were unable to report for academic reasons. Defensive back Willie Gaston has entered The University and will attempt to gain eligibility for the 1992 season. Linebacker Gari Jackson is expected to complete academic work this fall in hopes of entering Alabama for the spring semester. And wide receiver Keith Conegia has reportedly enrolled in junior college.

One thing making things brighter for the Alabama football outlook is the return of tailback Siran Stacy.

Wade Collins Photo

was perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the football team, and the main reason the quarterbacks fared so poorly. There appeared to be substantial improvement Saturday. Thursday's work was particularly disappointing because practice work until then indicated the offensive line would be much stronger than anticipated. Alabama lost four starters from last year's front five, and that's ordinarily an invitation to offensive inefficiency. However, in practice it appeared the offensive line was doing well. In fact, it's hard to imagine an offensive line being less effective than was the 1990 Bama front, but there were mitigating circumstances to last year's inefficiency, first and foremost the injuries to so many skill position players.

Matt Hammond, the left tackle and only returning starter from 1990, has appeared to be much stronger and more aggressive. Johnny Howard is behind him. Left guard George Wilson is limited by that disastrous foot injury he suffered several years ago, but he has great heart and strength and has held off a determined challenge from freshman Jon Stevenson, who has appeared to have future greatness written all over him. Tobie Sheils doesn't have the charisma of Roger Shultz, a two-time All-Southeastern Conference performer for the Crimson Tide, but Sheils has appeared to be about equal in ability to Shultz at center. Backup at center has been a problem with Wilson looking like the best bet to be number two. Right guard William Barger showed last year as a freshman at left guard that he is capable of being a big time college football player. He hasn't had a great fall, but he has been solid. Behind him, John Clay has done reasonably well since growing from an inside linebacker to a 280-pound offensive lineman over the past year.

The big problem has been right tackle. If there is a position one might suspect would get an Alabama quarterback or running back killed, it has been right tackle. It appeared for a while that freshman Joey Harville might be the surprise of the football team, and he might yet be that. He has been very good in drills. But he did not have a good scrimmage Thursday and was back to second team status Saturday. Last spring and early this fall both Charley Dare and Roosevelt Patterson had their moments, but both have dropped off in recent weeks. Dare seemed to have a good day in the Saturday scrimmage, but in an impartial election he would almost certainly be voted Alabama Player Most Likely To Miss His Assignment. There is no question Dare has the size, strength and speed to be a good football player, but thus far he has not been.

Two freshmen offensive linemen have shown improvement, but tackle Kareem McNeal will almost certainly be redshirted and center/guard Brent Clark (who worked on defense in the early going) may be held out because he is not quite as big as Bama coaches would like him to be. Rory Segrest was set back by a virus and he, too, may be held out this year. Napoleon Folks, who missed football last year for academic reasons, is also likely to be redshirted.

Other than quarterback and right tackle, the position of most concern is probably tight end. Steve Busky is the returning starter and he is an adequate blocker, which is a must for that position. However, Busky has never been a good receiver and he is not now. Derrick Warren, who has been an off-and-on football player in previous years, either because of injury or because of baseball participation, has made a little move at tight end. He doesn't block as well as Busky, but he's a better receiver — not to say that Warren is a great receiver. Many expected highly-regarded freshman Tony Johnson to come in and take over the tight end position. However, Johnson is not strong and doesn't have good techniques and, therefore, is a very poor blocker. He was not even used in Saturday's scrimmage and appears to be headed for a redshirt season. Another freshman, Tim Barnett, is still working at tight end and does some things very well, but most expect him to be held out and developed into an offensive tackle.

Everyone is generally pleased with the rest of the offense. Bama has a stable of wide receivers, particularly with the return of split end Craig Sanderson and flanker Prince Wimbley from knee injuries. Bama

1991 Bama Football Schedule

Date		Opponent	Site	*Time
Sept.	7	Temple	Birmingham	4:00 CDT
Sept.	14	Florida (ESPN)	Gainesville	7:30 EDT
Sept.	21	Georgia (ABC)	Tuscaloosa	7:00 CDT
Sept.	28	Vanderbilt	Nashville	7:00 CDT
Oct.	5	UT-Chattanooga	Birmingham	1:30 CDT
Oct.	12	Tulane (HC)	Tuscaloosa	1:30 CDT
Oct.	19	Tennessee	Birmingham	1:30 CDT
Nov.	2	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	1:30 CST
Nov.	9	LSU	Baton Rouge	7:00 CST
Nov.	16	Memphis State	Memphis	2:00 CST
Nov.	30	Auburn	Birmingham	1:30 CST

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is comfortably about three deep at both wide receiver spots, which is about three deeper than the Tide was last year after three games. Probably no freshman performance is more awaited than that of flanker David Palmer. Palmer is small, but he is one of the most exciting players ever to step on the Alabama practice field. He has had a number of outstanding catches in fall work and his quickness makes him an almost impossible man to cover one-on-one. Curt Brown is another freshman getting a lot of practice time, while returnees Donnie Finkley, Kevin Lee and Rick Brown, as well as walkons Dabo Swinney and David Bonamy, all appear to be improved.

Likewise, the return of Siran Stacy to tailback, along with improvement by Derrick Lassic and Chris Anderson, makes this an exciting position. Stacy has had only limited work, primarily because Stallings is worried about him being injured again, but he has indicated he is capable of being at the same level he was before his injury in the first game of 1990. A freshman, Sherman Williams, has looked very good at tailback, but depth dictates he is probably ticketed for a redshirt season.

Fullback is in excellent shape with vastly skilled Kevin Turner and Martin Houston, who appears to be in the best condition of his Alabama career. Tarrant Lynch, another Tider returning from knee surgery, is also working at fullback, but does not appear to have made the recovery that Stacy, Sanderson and Wimbley have made.

It is no secret that Alabama plans a change in its offense this year, primarily because all of the quarterbacks are very mobile. It will be an option offense, along the lines of the veer run by Houston several years ago. However, it does not appear it will be the grind-it-out type offense of the wishbone days. It is a big play offense with plenty of passing. Of course, no offense will work if the offensive line doesn't give the quarterback time to run the play or make holes for the running backs. And, of course, if the quarterback gets that time, he must make the play.

The defense is about what everyone who follows Alabama expects it to be. Last year the defense was expected to be weak and an outstanding coaching job made it one of the nation's best. It is still an excellent coaching staff and there is more experience and more talent on the defensive side of the football this year than last year. The front line appears to be developing a little depth. John Copeland, the highly-regarded junior college transfer, has finally moved a little ahead of Jeremy Nunley at left end, but either one is a winning football player. Nunley will probably be the top backup man at both left and right end. The right end is Eric Curry. In the middle is one of the nation's finest college football players, Robert Stewart. If there is any concern about Stewart it is that he has cramped up a couple of times this year, suffering cramps in his back muscles. However, he has performed very, very well. A true freshman, Elverett Brown, worked behind Stewart in the early practice time, but Brown suffered a stress fracture of his toe and was out for about two weeks. Brown had been on a two-week grace period, allowed to practice while an academic question was cleared up. Although Alabama made no official statement regarding Brown's status, the

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fact he was continuing to attend practice (even though unable to practice) after the two-week grace period is an indication that he has no eligibility problems.

Ironically, on the same day Brown was injured, Alabama coaches made the decision to move last year's backup nose tackle, James Gregory, back to defense. Gregory had experimented at offensive line the last week of spring training and the first week or so of fall drills before returning to defense. His move back could be taken as a concern about depth at nose tackle, as confidence in offensive line play, or a combination of both. Stallings wants to find the best starting players, then the best backup players at each position. It is likely he considers Gregory to be a better backup nose tackle than backup offensive lineman.

If there is a concern about the defensive front it is that this year's front three will not be as strong against the run as was last year's front with ends Byron Holdbrooks and George Thornton, both bigger than this year's ends. However, this year's group is tall and quick and looks to be an excellent pass rush unit. Of course, knowing that Mike Dubose is coaching the Alabama front is a source of comfort to those in the Bama camp. And Dubose has indicated he is comforted by the belief that up to eight or nine men are capable of playing in those three down positions.

Three true freshmen are getting a lot of work on the defensive front–Shannon Brown, Bryan Thornton and Dameian Jeffries. (Another freshman defensive lineman, Vann Bodden, suffered an early injury and will probably be held out.) Jeffries started the fall as an outside linebacker, third behind seniors Steve Webb and Byron Sneed (now going by Byron Sneed-Proctor).

Webb continues to be one of Alabama's, and the nation's, most underrated players. He has had an outstanding fall at left outside linebacker. At right outside linebacker Antonio London has added weight, up to about 240, and appears to be more than capable of replacing Spencer Hammond. He's backed by former tight end Monroe Harrison and Bragg Rockwell.

There is a little concern about depth at inside linebacker, primarily because Rodney Helton has been slowed by a knee problem. There is no problem with the starters. John Sullins is an all-star performer and Derrick Oden is one of the team's hardest-hitters and also underrated by many–though opposing offensive coordinators aren't in that group. A real strength at inside linebacker could be the play of a couple of redshirted freshmen, Michael Rogers and Mario Morris. Rogers has been particularly impressive. Morris did not report back in good condition, but has worked his way back into shape and is making great improvement. Freshman Jeff Torrence will probably be redshirted in order to get stronger.

Robert Stewart

The Alabama secondary is about what one would expect a Bill Oliver secondary to be. The preseason concern was weak safety, even though senior Charles Gardner had plenty of playing time there as a starter from midway through his freshman season through midway through last year. However, Gardner never impressed Oliver as a physical player, a prerequisite for the safety position. This fall Gardner seems much improved and is playing at both safety and strong safety. The return of Mark McMillian (who had to take care of some academic work to rejoin the team) has given the Bama secondary some flexibility. George Teague is an excellent left cornerback or free safety. With the return of McMillian, Teague could be the starting safety. The right cornerback is Antonio Langham, who played a little as a freshman and who has been outstanding through the spring and fall. Stacy Harrison is a hard-nosed strong safety. Some freshmen are likely to see action in the secondary this year. Tommy Johnson has been one of the most pleasant surprises of the signees. There was some question as to whether he would be a wide receiver, where he did well in his first few days, or a cornerback, where he has done very well since. He's backing up Langham. Another move was that of André Royal from inside linebacker to strong safety. He appears to be a future all-star at strong safety. Cornerback Sam Shade may also play as a freshman, while safety Will Brown began doing better once contact got started. Brown is a contact player, which is a must at that position, but he seemed to have a little trouble picking up the complicated schemes Oliver uses in the Bama secondary.

Alabama coaches believe that Alabama's overall defense will be more fundamentally sound than last year's, which means the Tide will have to rely less on the gimmick defenses, such as using up to seven defensive backs on obvious passing downs. However, those gimmicks were exceptionally successful last year and they are still a part of the overall Bama package.

The kicking game is something of a question mark, but overall appears to be sound. Tank Williamson, who won the punting job last year, has punted reasonably well most days, although he'll never be a true boomer. Bryne Diehl, who reported as a freshman walkon last fall, then had to sit out a year for academic reasons, is back and punting well. And J.J. Adams, the former barefoot punter, is now punting with a shoe on and doing well. Matthew Pine is an excellent snapper, a big plus in the punting game. Alabama's overall team speed is such that coverage on both punts and kickoffs should be excellent.

The placekicking job is one of those areas Stallings has mentioned since the end of last season as a question mark. The answer to that question more and more appears to be Matt Wethington, a walkon redshirt freshman. Wethington has gotten far more action with the first kicking units than any other candidates and has generally responded well, including a 48-yard field goal in Bama's Saturday scrimmage. Johnny Howard returns to snap and Jeff Wall returns as the holder. Stallings has indicated another walkon, freshman Stephen Cole, is likely to be the kickoff man.

Almost everyone expects Palmer to be the punt return man, and Palmer has gotten a lot of work on that task this fall. However, Chris Anderson returned punts satisfactorily last year, and he is also practicing that specialty.

Bama has not done enough work on kickoff returns to know with certainty who will handle that job. Certainly speedster Kevin Lee's critical return to start the second half against Auburn last year works in his favor. Palmer and/or Anderson might be a possibility. And the large number of wide receivers and running backs means Tide coaches have a large selection for this job.

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1991 Alabama Football Roster

(Subject to substantial change)

Name, Pos.	Cl.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown
Chuck Aaron, de	Fr.	6-3	260	RS	Centerville, Miss.
Jason Abrams, te	Jr.	6-4	230	JC	Demopolis
J. J. Adams, p	Fr.	6-1	165	RS	Katy, Texas
Chris Anderson, tb	So.	5-9	175	1L	Huntsville
Michael Ausmus, cb	Fr.	5-9	170	HS	Mobile
William Barger, og	So.	6-3	270	1L	Birmingham
Jay Barker, qb	Fr.	6-3	210	RS	Trussville
Tim Barnett, te	Fr.	6-5	250	HS	Bear Creek
Willis Bevelle, wr	Jr.	6-1	180	2L	Bessemer
Vann Bodden, de	Fr.	6-5	235	HS	Moss Point, Miss.
David Bonamy, wr	Jr.	5-10	170	Sq	Ormond Beach, Fla.
Rod Bradford, ot	So.	6-5	235	Sq	Mobile
Jay Brannen, olb	Fr.	6-2	210	RS	Gainesville, Fla.
Curt Brown, wr	Fr.	6-2	190	HS	John's Island, S.C.
Elverett Brown, de	Fr.	6-5	270	HS	Montgomery
Shannon Brown, de	Fr.	6-6	250	HS	Millbrook
Rick Brown, wr	Fr.	6-0	175	RS	Fort Worth, Texas
Willie Brown, s	Fr.	6-2	200	HS	Syracuse, N.Y.
Brian Burgdorf, qb	Fr.	6-2	175	HS	Cedartown, Ga.
A. Burroughs, fb	Fr.	6-1	198	HS	Rogersville
Steve Busky, te	Jr.	6-5	228	1L	Suitland, Md.
Mike Campbell, wr	Jr.	6-0	185	1L	Pinson
Steve Christopher, qb	So.	6-0	195	HS	Anniston
Brent Clark, og	Fr.	6-3	255	HS	Plainview
John Clay, og	So.	6-1	260	1L	Nashville, Tenn.
Chuck Clency, ss	Fr.	6-1	177	HS	Buffalo, N.Y.
Chris Cochran, olb	Jr.	6-3	235	2L	Germantown, Tenn.
Roman Colburn, cb	Fr.	6-0	175	RS	Fort Payne
Lorenzo Cole, wr	So.	5-10	175	1L	Florence
Stephen Cole, pk	Fr.	5-10	165	RS	Fayetteville, Ga.
Mickey Conn, cb	Fr.	5-10	175	RS	Snellville, Ga.
John Copeland, de	Jr.	6-4	280	JC	Fairfax
Eric Curry, de	Jr.	6-6	265	1L	Thomasville, Ga.
Charlie Dare, ot	Sr.	6-5	290	2L	Enterprise
Danny Davis, qb	Fr.	6-1	205	RS	Memphis
Bryne Diehl, p	So.	6-3	185	HS	Oakman
Chris Donneley, db	Jr.	6-1	179	Tr	Germantown, Tenn.
Jody Evans, cb	Jr.	5-11	165	Sq	Crestview, Fla.
Mike Favors, og	Fr.	6-2	297	HS	Mobile
Howie Fell, ilb	Fr.	6-2	220	HS	Birmingham
Donnie Finkley, wr	Jr.	5-10	175	2L	Fairhope
Napoleon Folks, og	So.	6-3	288	HS	Montgomery
Jeff Foshee, ilb	Fr.	5-9	192	RS	Millbrook
Brian Free, ilb	Fr.	6-1	218	HS	Elba
Charles Gardner, s	Sr.	6-1	203	3L	Carson, Calif.
Jas. Giangrosso, de	Sr.	6-2	270	Sq	Chalmette, La.
Chad Gladden, c	Fr.	6-3	254	RS	Centre
Clyde Goode, cb	Sr.	5-9	175	1L	Town Creek
Hamp Greene, pk	Jr.	5-10	185	Sq	Montgomery
D. Greenwood, cb	Jr.	5-11	180	1L	Lanett
James Gregory, nt	So.	6-4	295	1L	St. Louis, Mo.
Lemanski Hall, ss	So.	6-0	200	1L	Fairfax
Matt Hammond, ot	So.	6-3	260	1L	Fort Payne
Craig Harris, fb	Jr.	5-11	205	2L	Panama City, Fla.
Monroe Harrison, olb	Jr.	6-1	240	1L	Biloxi, Miss.
Stacy Harrison, ss	Sr.	5-11	185	3L	Atlanta
Joey Harville, ot	Fr.	6-5	280	HS	Moulton
Rodney Helton, ilb	Jr.	6-1	220	1L	Knoxville, Tenn.
Alvin Hope, cb	Jr.	5-9	175	1L	Mobile
Martin Houston, fb	Jr.	5-10	235	2L	Centre
Johnny Howard, ot	Jr.	6-3	270	2L	Bessemer
John Hutt, ilb	So.	6-0	205	Sq	Tuscaloosa
Jason Jack, qb	Fr.	6-1	180	RS	Oxford
Dameian Jeffries, olb	Fr.	6-5	240	HS	Sylacauga
Tommy Johnson, cb	Fr.	5-11	175	HS	Niceville, Fla.
Tony Johnson, te	Fr.	6-5	240	HS	Como, Miss.
Jason Jones, c	Fr.	6-2	260	HS	Lakeland, Fla.
Alex Jordon, ss	So.	6-1	194	Sq	Hueytown
Chad Key, qb	Fr.	6-5	195	HS	Parrish
Will Knowlton, olb	Fr.	6-3	200	HS	Fayette

Name, Pos.	Cl.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown
Alex LaBellman, pk	Fr.	6-0	180	HS	Maitland, Fla.
Antonio Langham, cb	So.	6-1	166	1L	Town Creek
Derrick Lassic, tb	Jr.	5-10	195	2L	Haverstraw, N.Y.
Kirk Lawson, ot	Fr.	6-4	285	RS	Florence
Kevin Lee, wr	So.	6-0	175	1L	Mobile
Victor Lockett, ilb	So.	5-11	228	1L	Mobile
Antonio London, olb	Jr.	6-2	240	2L	Tullahoma, Tenn.
Jackson Lowery, ss	Fr.	6-1	188	RS	Huntsville
Tarrant Lynch, fb	Fr.	6-1	215	RS	Town Creek
Jeff Marshall, tb	Jr.	5-9	185	1L	Winfield
Steve McLaughlin, rb	Fr.	5-10	165	HS	Garden City, N.Y.
Mark McMillian, cb	Sr.	5-8	160	1L	Los Angeles
Kareem McNeal, ot	Fr.	6-5	265	HS	Tuskegee
Jeff McCullough, ot	Fr.	6-6	255	HS	Oneonta
Jerald Mills, te	Sr.	6-3	210	Sq	Arab
Jason Milner, de	Fr.	6-5	260	RS	Broken Arrow, Okla.
Mario Morris, ilb	Fr.	6-2	220	RS	Decatur
Stan Moss, p	Jr.	6-0	200	1L	Brent
Matt Mundy, pk-p	Fr.	5-11	170	HS	Carrollton, Ga.
Jeremy Nunley, de	So.	6-5	255	1L	Winchester, Tenn.
Derrick Oden, ilb	Jr.	6-1	225	2L	Tuscaloosa
David Palmer, wr	Fr.	5-9	170	HS	Birmingham
R. Patterson, ot	So.	6-3	290	Sq	Mobile
John Phillips, nt	Jr.	5-11	265	Sq	Atlanta
Matthew Pine, sn	So.	6-2	218	1L	Gadsden
Myron Pope, te	So.	6-2	210	Sq	Sweetwater
Jason Porch, pk-p	Fr.	6-1	180	HS	Scottsboro
Bart Pritchett, de	So.	6-1	260	Sq	Mobile
Bragg Rockwell, olb	Jr.	6-0	205	2L	Daphne
Michael Rogers, ilb	Fr.	6-1	220	RS	Luverne
André Royal, ss	Fr.	6-3	210	HS	Northport
Craig Sanderson, wr	Sr.	5-11	175	3L	Hamilton
Rory Segrest, ot	Fr.	6-4	285	HS	Waycross, Ga.
Jas. Shackelford, db	Sr.	5-11	180	Sq	Plant City, Fla.
Sam Shade, db	Fr.	6-2	190	HS	Birmingham
Tobie Sheils, c	So.	6-2	256	1L	Daphne
Lattrell Simms, db	Fr.	6-2	175	HS	Auburn
B.Sneed-Proctor, olb	Sr.	6-3	244	3L	Alexandria, Va.
Irving Spikes, rb	Jr.	5-10	205	Sq	Ocean Springs, Miss.
Siran Stacy, tb	Sr.	6-0	200	1L	Geneva
Jon Stevenson, og	Fr.	6-4	285	HS	Memphis, Tenn.
Robert Stewart, nt	Sr.	6-0	290	3L	Ashford
Brian Stutson, s	Sr.	6-0	197	2L	Birmingham
John Sullins, ilb	Sr.	6-1	235	3L	Oxford, Miss.
Dabo Swinney, wr	Sr.	6-0	180	1L	Pelham
Harold Swopes, fb	Sr.	5-11	220	Sq	Decatur
George Teague, cb	Jr.	6-0	187	2L	Montgomery
Bryan Thornton, de	Fr.	6-7	280	HS	Mobile
John Tomlinson, olb	So.	6-1	205	Sq	Monroeville
Jeff Torrence, ilb	Fr.	6-2	215	HS	Atmore
DeLan Trimble, olb	Fr.	6-3	230	RS	Cullman
James Tuley, pk	So.	5-10	200	Sq	Montgomery
Kevin Turner, fb	Sr.	6-0	220	3L	Prattville
Thad Turnipseed, olb	Fr.	6-0	194	RS	Montgomery
Jeff Wall, holder	Jr.	5-8	165	2L	Birmingham
John Wall, og	Fr.	6-2	268	Sq	Niceville, Fla.
Derrick Warren, te	Jr.	6-4	235	2L	Pensacola, Fla.
Eric Washington, ss	Jr.	6-1	200	1L	Miami
Jared Watson, sn	So.	6-2	225	Sq	Vandiver
Steve Webb, olb	Sr.	6-3	250	3L	Holt
Jason West, cb	Fr.	5-8	160	HS	Tuscaloosa
Matt Wethington, pk	So.	5-11	155	Sq	Titusville, Fla.
Tab Whisenhunt, ilb	So.	6-2	220	Sq	Bessemer
Brent White, qb	Jr.	6-3	205	Sq	Colo. Springs, Colo.
Sherman Williams, rb	Fr.	5-10	185	HS	Mobile
Tank Williamson, p	Sr.	5-11	205	1L	Orrville
George Wilson, og	Jr.	6-2	255	1L	Bessemer
Prince Wimbley, wr	Jr.	5-10	174	3L	Miami
Danny Woodson, qb	Sr.	6-3	225	1L	Mobile
Rock Woody, cb	Fr.	6-0	170	RS	Springville

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Dabo Swinney:

He's Making A Name For Himself

by Donald F. Staffo

Junior split end trying to overcome the odds of making it as a walk-on

He's got the name: Dabo. If he were a superstar athlete, famous entertainer, or nationally-recognized politician he would be identified by his first name, as Bo or Madonna or Cher. His autobiography would only need to be titled, "Dabo."

But Dabo Swinney is not a celebrity, or even a star football player. He's a walk-on for The University of Alabama football team, a position which carries little prestige. That's not to say that Dabo Swinney won't one day be a star, but it's more likely he will achieve that status on Wall Street than in the National Football League.

Swinney, who plans to earn a masters degree in business administration, graduated with a 3.7 GPA from Pelham High School, for which he also happened to be a three-sport, all-conference athlete. Though his grades could have easily gotten him an academic scholarship to Alabama (and many other schools), his athletic ability seemed a bit short compared to the all-everythings Bama recruits for football.

Still, Swinney, 6-1 and 180, could have played football–or baseball or basketball for that matter–for a number of Division II or Division III schools. Instead, he chose to walk on at Alabama where he would, for all intents and purposes, be used as a practice dummy to fine-tune the varsity.

"I could have played any of three sports at a lot of smaller schools, but I was originally going to go into pre-med and a lot of the smaller schools didn't offer the curriculum that I would need," explained Swinney. "When I came to Alabama I planned just to go to school. But I still wanted to play sports, so then I decided to give football a shot. I figured I had everything to gain and nothing to lose."

That is if you call the possibility of getting your body bent out of shape, teeth loosened, and your brains scrambled, nothing to lose. And for what, since most walk-ons hope just to suit up, the only chance to be on the field being during pre-game warm-ups.

"It was tough at first, coming out every day and getting knocked around. It was a real struggle to go every day against the first stringers," said Swinney, whose only hope at the time was, if he was lucky, to be selected to dress for a couple of home games. "You wonder if you'll ever get to the point where they are in terms of skill and confidence.

"But I have a lot of faith," said Swinney. "I pray every day. I knew someday it would pay off."

Swinney says it has paid off already, even though he's only a junior and has two years of eligibility left. Against all odds, Swinney, as a redshirt freshman, actually got in for a couple of plays against Southern Mississippi.

"Being a freshman and without a scholarship, that was really an accomplishment for me," he said. "I was very pleased and proud. And I got to go to the Sugar Bowl.

"That was special because the last time Alabama had gone to the Sugar Bowl, in 1980, I was 10 years old and attended the game. And 10 years later I was with the team. That's something I dreamed about."

After battling his way from a total unknown to actually getting in a game, Swinney said he felt confident that he would play the following year. But then came the coaching change, with Gene Stallings taking over for Bill Curry.

"That set me back," said Swinney. "The old coaches knew how hard I had worked and what I had accomplished. The new coaches didn't even know me, so it was only natural that the incoming coaches concentrated on the scholarship players."

With the changing of the guard Swinney didn't get the repetitions he thought he would in spring practice. He said he felt he was better than some of the guys ahead of him, but that he wasn't being noticed.

"I wondered if I was ever going to get an opportunity. That's all I wanted was a chance to show what I could do," he said. "I was struggling again, and I thought long and hard about transferring because I reached a point where I wanted to play.

"My brother (Tracy) helped me get through that period. After the Lord, he's the number one leader in my life. Tracy and Bobby Hayes, the mayor of Pelham, both had a lot of confidence in me. They talked me into sticking it out. They both said the same thing: 'If you go out and work hard every day, and have patience, it will all pay off.' I thought about that and said it to myself every day, especially at practice."

(Incidentally, Mayor Hayes has more than a passing knowledge of Alabama football. For many years he was a police captain in Birmingham and the man in charge of handling the Alabama team motorcades to and from Legion Field.)

With that kind of attitude and perseverance Swinney caught the eye of the new coaching staff, especially Woody McCorvey, just as he had the old regime.

"Last year we were struggling and he was on the scout team, and I told him: 'Hey, if you catch the football, we'll play you,' " said McCorvey.

Finally, eight games into last season, against Mississippi State, Swinney got into a game.

"I was excited and real intense. I just wanted to hit somebody," said Swinney, who played four snaps against the Bulldogs. "Coach McCorvey kept his word. I appreciate that. All I wanted was a chance to prove myself. I can't tell you how much that boosted my confidence. I didn't fear anybody anymore. After that I moved from third team up to second team behind Lamonde (Russell)."

Swinney's playing time dramatically increased, as he got in for almost 30 plays against LSU, more than 30 against Cincinnati, and for 10 or 12 against arch-rival Auburn. He even caught a pass–the only one of his college career to date–against Cincinnati, and almost scored.

The play, a bootleg to the left side, was called with Swinney being the primary receiver. "Going up to the line of scrimmage I said to myself, 'This is it,' " remembered Swinney, before going out 10 yards and cutting, catching the pass, and then advancing the ball nine more yards before being bumped out of bounds on the three-yard line.

"I definitely saw the end zone, but I didn't see the guy who knocked me out of bounds," said Swinney. "If I had, I probably could have dived in."

"I wished he could have scored," said McCorvey. "But he did what he had to

Dabo Swinney must put in the same amount of work in the weightroom and on the practice field as the scholarshipped Tide players, but has no guarantees of playing on Saturdays. However, Dabo has made progress and been rewarded.

Barry Fikes Photo

do. He set up a touchdown for us."

Swinney said that catch "made all the sweat, tears, bruises, pain, (former Strength Coach Rich) Wingo workouts, everything, worth it. That was by far my greatest sports moment."

Swinney also got a bonus, the photograph of that catch appearing the next morning in *The Tuscaloosa News*.

"Dabo doesn't have the ability of some of the other guys, but he makes up for it by not making mistakes," said McCorvey. "The thing I admire about Dabo is his attitude. I'm impressed with his effort. Whatever his assignment is, you can count on him doing it. If the football is thrown around him, you can count on him making a good effort to catch it. And he can catch the football.

"He's a walk-on and he doesn't have a scholarship. That's what's so special about him. The odds were against him early, but he never gave up. He has to do everything that a guy on scholarship has to do, and he doesn't get anything for it. What he gets is the satisfaction of being associated with The University of Alabama football team."

Despite being All-Shelby County as a receiver, point guard, and shortstop, Swinney says he didn't have the kind of senior season he planned on having.

"After 25 years (of marriage) my parents divorced in my senior year," he said. "I mentally struggled with that all year long. It affected my play some and was a reason I didn't get any major school scholarship offers."

Swinney credits his high school coach, Billy Tohill (now an assistant in UAB's fledgling program) with giving him the confidence to walk on at Alabama. Tohill was a former head coach at TCU (when Stallings was head man at Texas A&M) and a line coach with the Birmingham Vulcans in the defunct World Football League before taking the Pelham job when the WFL folded.

"Coach Tohill had college and pro experience so I asked him if he thought I could play for Alabama," said Swinney. "Coach Tohill looked me straight in the eye and said: 'There's no doubt' that I could play at this level."

Swinney played behind Donnie Finkley at split end last year, but rehabilitated Craig Sanderson returns this fall, most likely dropping Swinney on the Tide's depth chart. But Swinney has proved his point. That he can play football for Alabama.

"Dabo doesn't have the speed (he's a 4.8 man in the 40-yard dash) of some of the others, but I would feel very comfortable putting him in the game in certain (short and intermediate passing) situations," said McCorvey. "And I think he'll also get some playing time on special teams."

Swinney also received a boost from Stallings, who following spring training, recognized Dabo's progress. "That motivated me to work even harder this past summer," Swinney said. "My goal is still to earn a scholarship. It's not something I dwell on, but I think it's a realistic goal if I do my part."

And about that name: Tripp, his older brother by 15 months, tried to refer to his newborn sibling as 'that boy,' only it came out 'Dabo.'

Matthew Pine:

His Job Is Not A Snap

by Mike Herndon

The long snapper has an important role in the punting game and Pine works hard to succeed

The Crimson Tide lines up in punt formation, its third down play having failed. With their backs against the wall and their punter under the goalposts deep in the end zone, the men in crimson are well aware of the importance of this play.

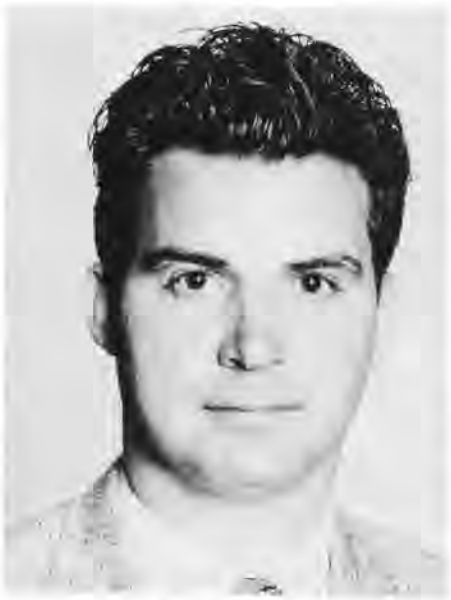
The Tide faithful hold their collective breath as the linemen settle into their stances and the snapper grips the ball. A blocked punt could result in a touchdown or safety for the opponents, possibly changing the course of the entire game. A bad snap would almost certainly yield the same result. A bad punt or a lengthy return would leave the opposing team with promising field position and their offense with a short trip to paydirt.

The punter calls for the snap. The snapper rockets a perfect spiral like a shot into the punter's waiting hands. The opposing defensive linemen push their huge frames across the line of scrimmage, thrusting their arms into the air, hoping to make contact with the airborne football. A sea of crimson blocks their path, sending them crashing to the earth as they reach for the sky.

The punter quickly boots the ball, sending it spiralling for the heavens just as an opposing player dives in vain at his feet. The return man backpedals, and then turns and runs, catching the ball over his shoulder just as he is engulfed in a wave of crimson jerseys. Instead of a touchdown, a safety or even good field position, the visitors find themselves staring at a long field of green Bryant-Denny turf between them and the end zone.

Alabama fans heave a sigh of relief. "Good punt," one says. "Great coverage," another adds. But overlooked is another crucial part of the play, without which the booming punt and excellent coverage would not have been possible. For the play to even begin, there has to be a snap.

Offensive linemen in general are usually taken for granted, only being noticed when they make a mistake. Such is the life of the long snapper as well. A good, crisp snap is taken for granted, but a slow or misplaced snap will garner immediate attention for the red-faced snapper.



Amos Jones

Handling this delicate job for the 1991 Crimson Tide team will be sophomore Matthew Pine, who also filled the role last year as a redshirt freshman.

"It's a real important part of the game," the 6-2, 218-pounder said of his duties. "You can end a game like that–a bad snap, a bad punt, a bobbled snap, a high snap, low snap. It's a pretty important job."

The Gadsden native was a punter in high school, as well as playing tight end and snapping for field goals and extra points, and he almost went to Kentucky to ply that trade for the Wildcats.

But Pine said then-Tide Coach Bill Curry (now, ironically, the Wildcat coach) convinced him to come to Tuscaloosa.

"Coach Curry wanted me to come down and be a punter. He knew I could also snap and do some other things on special teams, so he thought I'd be a good addition, I guess."

But punting was not Pine's destined role.

"When I got down here, I didn't really perform well as a punter," Pine said. "I don't know if it was just that too many guys were out and I didn't get to do my thing, but I just felt more comfortable snapping."

Pine caught the eye of the Tide coaching staff as he snapped, and filled that role for the scout team in 1989 before snapping for the varsity last year.

Pine said the main concern for the long snapper is to get the ball into the punter's hands. "My main job is to get the ball back to the punter. The second main thing is to get downfield and make the guy go one way, and if I can, make the tackle."

This second concern, punt coverage, is a tough job for the snapper, who must fill the middle part of the field in coverage assignments.

"You're going full speed downfield and you're the first guy down there," Pine explained. "Just one move either way when he catches it, and you're gone.

"You've got to break down about five yards in front of him and shadow him. By that time–if you've broken down on him–then everybody else is coming in on him."

Pine said teams usually don't line a noseguard over him, making it easy for him to get downfield quickly. But, he added, this is not a steadfast rule. "After the first game, everybody noticed that I was getting downfield fast. I was usually the first one downfield. So in the Georgia game, they started putting people on me, having a noseguard hitting me, holding me up.

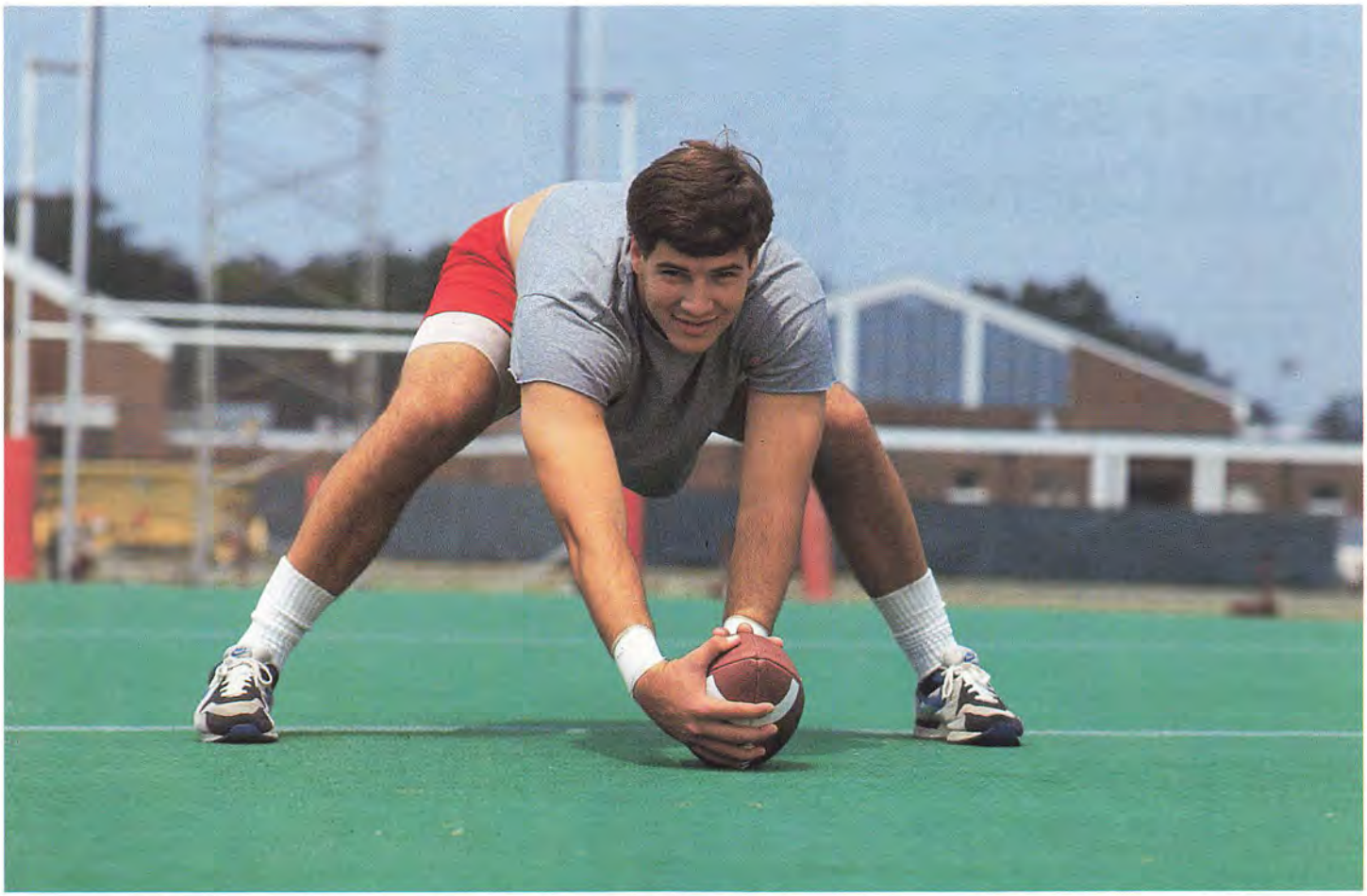
"But only about three or four teams did that," he added. "I usually don't get held up."

Pine said the Georgia game showed him how rough it could become as a snapper in the SEC. "You snap (the ball) and they're supposed to let you get up, then hit you. I snapped it and he bowled me over every time," Pine said. "I had three white stripes down the back of my helmet.

"That will make you shell-shocked for a while. But you've just got to do your thing and the rest will take its course."

Blocking assignments for the punt team are dictated by the situation, Pine said, with the Tide alternating between zone and man-to-man schemes. "When it's a close punt, as far as going into the end zone, we usually go to zone protection–just block straight ahead. But on the man protection, (it depends on) whichever way they're lined up" as to who the offensive linemen block.

"Last year, we'd shift according to the way they lined up. If they overloaded on one side, we'd overload and punt to that side. Tank (Williamson, the Tide's



Matthew Pine holds an important position on the Alabama football team, but he knows he will only be noticed if he fails to perform his task correctly. Pine is the snapper on punts for the Crimson Tide. Although it is something of an overlooked part of the football game, Pine realizes the importance of his job and works diligently to improve his skills.

Barry Fikes Photo

punter) would move over and I'd have to angle my snap about three yards, either to the left or the right. That meant they had to try to block it from (the overloaded) side, and it would be a lot harder. I think when we got those punts blocked, we were in zone."

Pine stressed the importance of a quick snap to a successful punt on the college level. "You've got to get it back there fast; they (rushing defenders) are so fast on the outside," he said. " Tank and I averaged about 1.9 seconds last year. We got it off pretty quick.

"It's a lot harder than people think it is. People take it for granted, but it's a pretty tough job.

"It's not glorious or anything, but you get the job done and don't worry about getting noticed. When you get noticed is when you mess up."

Pine said he snaps about 200 balls each practice in the summer, dropping off to 50-100 in the fall.

"That's basically all I do at practice is snap, but I'm going to try to get a little more contact than last year. I'm going to try to get in more tackling drills this summer."

He said practices begin with a 20-minute specialty period, during which Head Coach Gene Stallings watches the kickers, punters, snappers, and return men do their thing. This is followed by stretching, and more snapping and kicking, maybe a little weightlifting. Then the specialty players gather with the rest of the team for live drills.

Pine has gained weight in the off-season in hopes of snapping for field goals and extra points as well as punts. This job was held by 6-3, 270-pound Johnny Howard last year, but Pine said he hopes the added weight and an increased use of Howard on the offensive line would lead to his earning the job.

Special teams coach Amos Jones said this is unlikely, however. "He won't be snapping (for field goals and extra points) until he gets about 250," Jones said. "I like to have a big guy."

Jones said a year of experience will greatly help Pine improve his long-snapping and coverage skills. "A year of experience is going to help him–having a good awareness of his limitations as far as field placement, knowing the little things. Experience is a big key for that position."

Jones said he looks for a "tall, rangy kid" for a long snapper, who can "run well, and break down and make a tackle. He's the designated point guy of the coverage unit. The return guy should get filtered to him," Jones said, explaining the snapper's need for tackling skills.

Jones praised Pine as "an excellent kid, a good snapper, and a pretty good coverage guy."

But as far as punting goes, something Pine admits he wouldn't mind trying again, Jones said, "He's gotten so good at the snapping situation, I don't think we could ever move him."

John Sullins:

Defensive Star Faces Last Chance

by Donald F. Staffo

Senior linebacker wants another championship ring in his Crimson Tide career

John Sullins is a competitor. The senior Alabama inside linebacker likes to win and he wants to win.

Sullins, an All-Southeastern Conference selection last year and a preseason repeat pick this fall, has been on a conference championship team, knows the feeling, and wants to experience it again. And beyond that, he has higher aspirations for the 1991 Crimson Tide. He knows what it takes to get the ring, and he's irked if he feels others are not pulling their weight.

"Last year was a learning experience for us," Sullins said. "We learned a lot about each other and our coaching staff. With new coaches and a new system we started out apart. But after losing our first three games, everyone was kind of looking around for leadership. We didn't know who to look to, but guys who had played before like Robert Stewart, Eric Curry, Steve Webb and me emerged as leaders. We then became closer together and won seven of our last eight games.

"But we had, and still have, guys who are immature and who are not setting their priorities straight. Some have matured, but not enough. The Fiesta Bowl (a 34-7 loss to Louisville) was a telling

John Sullins is in the middle of things for the Alabama defense in more ways than one. The senior, who is a returning All-Southeastern Conference performer, plays the glamour position of middle linebacker and is the Tide's leading returning tackler.

Barry Fikes Photo

BAMA
90

point. It showed up in that game.

"I think a majority of our team gave 100 per cent, but some are still not quite giving 100 per cent."

That bothers Sullins, who was a sophomore when Bama last won the SEC title in 1989 and who is now looking at his final season in a Crimson Tide uniform.

"My biggest thrill so far is playing Miami in the Sugar Bowl," he said. "That's why I came here–to play in big games and to have big goals. I experienced it, know what it takes, and I want to experience it again. I'm counting on getting back to New Orleans."

Last year the 6-1, 225-pound Sullins led more by example. "John is a quiet kid who is very polite around the coaches," said inside linebackers coach Jeff Rouzie. "He let's his actions speak, not his mouth, which is the way it should be. He'll get excited on a big play, but he's not a rah-rah type of player on the field. He basically goes about his business."

That he did, as Sullins had a team-high 76 tackles, including four sacks and four stops behind the line of scrimmage, as the Tide's left inside linebacker. He also intercepted four passes and caused a fumble.

Though he hopes to better those totals this season. Sullins said he also plans to be more vocal. "I've never been one to talk much, and leading by example has not been enough. Being a senior I'm going to do everything I can to get them motivated."

For Alabama to return to New Orleans, general consensus is that the defense is going to have to lead the way, at least in the early going. Seven starters, including three linebackers and three defensive backs, are back from a unit ranked in the top six nationally in four categories. (On the other hand, the entire right side of the offensive line is gone, suggesting replacements will need time to gain experience to play winning football.)

And being all-league and an upper classman, Sullins, along with Stewart, Curry, and Webb, is going to have to lead the defense.

"No, I don't really feel any extra pressure because I know what I can do," Sullins said softly, no hint of braggadocio. "I'll just go out and do the best that I can, and I can live with that.

"Being All-SEC I'm sure (the opponents) will know my number, but I don't know if it will effect their blocking schemes. I doubt it because they basically have to worry about our front three, who likely could be the best (down linemen) in the conference. Robert Stewart (Senior , 6-0, 285), no doubt, is one of the best nosetackles in the country, Eric Curry (Junior, 6-6, 265, right end) is probably the most talented of our three down linemen, and Jeremy Nunley (Sophomore, 6-5, 255, left end) is solid and keeps improving. John Copeland (Junior, 6-4, 270) has also been a good addition at left end. After them, they can get out on me."

Jeff Rouzie

Sullins said he appreciates being recognized individually and as part of a successful defensive unit. "It's nice people expect a lot out of you, but like every player on the team, individual honors come second behind team honors. Our main goal is to win the SEC championship again and have a shot at the national championship, and then whatever individual honors come after that will be fine."

National recognition and a possible professional career could be in Sullins' future, and according to Rouzie, "that's up to John. I think he can go on and continue to play football. John has more size and, in a lot of respects, more ability than Randy Scott, Robby Jones, and Eddie Lowe (former Tiders coached by Rouzie who went on to professional football). He has the potential. He just has to make up his mind to use it.

"John's father (S.E. Sullins) is a coach (as is his brother Darrell), so he comes from a good football background. He has a lot of instincts that you look for in an inside linebacker. The main one is toughness. John is a tough kid. He's a competitor. He doesn't like to get beat. When the going gets tough he rises to the occasion, and that's what you look for in an inside linebacker (referred to as 'Mike' in the Alabama scheme of things)," continued Rouzie.

"He doesn't really have great speed or strength, but he compensates with his attitude and toughness. He's got good feet and he has a knack of finding the football. You watch film and you'll see him around the football.

"Like some of the other players, John needs to work a little more on his agility and do more running and conditioning work; things that aren't fun, but they've got to be done.

"Sure, John can go on and play more football. But I'm just concerned with what John does this year, and that John graduates from the University of Alabama with a degree. The other stuff will take care of itself with time."

This year John will team with Derrick Oden (6-1, 225, Junior), as the inside linebackers (Oden's position is termed 'Jack').

"Our Mike linebacker (Sullins) is usually the stronger of the two, whereas the Jack linebacker (Oden) has a little more speed," explained Rouzie. "That's because we ask Jack to do a little more pass coverage. Run responsibility is the same for both. The two compliment each other."

Rouzie said Alabama's defense is not designed for linebackers or defensive linemen to make the tackles. "Our defense is set up so that all 11 people have a chance to make the play on every down. The players know that if they carry out their assignments that everybody has a chance to make the play. If they all carry out their assignments, the other team shouldn't score."

Rouzie said Sullins means a lot to the Tide football team. "He's one of the keys to our success. His senior leadership is important, especially to our younger kids."

Sullins, a three-year letterman who was a scholastic all-state performer in Alabama (Sulligent High School) and Mississippi (Oxford Lafayette), got

One strong point of Alabama linebacker John Sullins is his desire to be a part of every tackle, and the senior goes full speed each down.
Barry Fikes Photo

some of his leadership ability and football sense from his father, who coached him in high school before and after the elder Sullins had assistant football coaching stints in college(Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Auburn, though he's since returned to Sulligent as head coach).

"My father has coached football for a long time. He knows what he's talking about," said Sullins. "He's hard on me and he's my biggest critic. It's kind of hard to please him because he can always find a mistake I've made. He wants me to play a perfect game. That's not realistic, but you can't tell him that.

"But my father has helped me, and he's also my biggest supporter. Like every father, he just wants the best for his son."

Asked if his father still tries to coach him, Sullins said his father has done all that he can for him in that respect. "Now he leaves the coaching up to the assistants and Coach Stallings," Sullins said.

Because his father was coaching at Ole Miss when John was a high school senior, everyone assumed the younger Sullins would be a Rebel. However, when Ole Miss made some staff changes that affected his father, John opted for Alabama. "I just considered Alabama the crown jewel of Southern football," Sullins said. "The tradition, the college atmosphere, the camaraderie, everything felt right when I came for my visit, so I just cancelled the rest of my scheduled visits.

"You can't get any better than Alabama. I just said, 'If I want to become one of the best, I want to go to the best to see if I stack up.' "

So far Sullins has stacked up pretty well. As a true freshman he played in all 11 games in 1988, including a start against Kentucky. The following year he made 34 tackles and started the last three contests. Besides being All-SEC as a junior, Sullins was named ESPN Player of the Game for his season-high 13 tackles against Penn State, while designated the following week as WTBS Player of the Game for his stellar performance against Mississippi State.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Sullins wants to get better. "This being my last year I want to savor everything," he said. "I want to improve every day, which is what I have been trying to do for the last three years.

"I want to repeat as All-SEC and maybe All-America is attainable. I think I'm just as good as any other linebacker in the country. I always had a dream of playing pro football. Now that possibility is getting closer and within my reach. I'm going down the home stretch, so it's time to kick it in a little bit.

"I'm still trying to play the perfect game and make every tackle. Then my dad will be happy."

Hootie Likes What He Sees

by Kirk McNair

Tide athletics director works on all aspects to make Bama a winner

Someone has got to watch the bottom line on an enterprise that has an operating budget of some $13^1/_2$ million a year. The someone who does that at The University of Alabama Athletics Department is the director of athletics, Cecil Ingram. And while Hootie Ingram would probably rather be athletics director at his alma mater (Alabama '55) than anything else, it is not a cruise ship he commands.

Many Alabama football fans are concerned about what appears to be a dearth of attractive non-conference opponents on future schedules. Ingram must figure out how to have a schedule "when eight of your 11 games are mailed to you." The problem is the new Southeastern Conference alignment. Beginning in 1992 every SEC team will have eight conference games, four home and four away. Ingram believes it would be financially burdensome to have a season with only six home games (which, incidentally, Bama has this year since the Auburn game in Birmingham is Auburn's home game). And so the immediate future shows a relatively unappealing schedule. The 1992 season is the only one Ingram said he had completed a schedule for (although he is close to having '93 and '94 finished) and the non-conference opponents are Southern Miss, Louisiana Tech and Tulane–with Tulane on the road. That, too, is only six home games.

Although Ingram doesn't absolutely rule out the possibility of having an attractive intersectional opponent on future schedules, the kind of opponent that would have to be scheduled on the basis of one home game for one away game (such as Southern Cal, Notre Dame, Penn State, etc.), he indicates he is more comfortable with 14 home games every two years, all of the non-conference opponents regional lesser names, than he is with 13 home games every two years, one of them a more highly-regarded opponent.

But Alabama is not alone in this boat. The Big Ten has expanded to the Big 11 with the addition of Penn State. The Atlantic Coast Conference has taken in Florida State. Miami is part of a new Big East Conference. And there are rumors of more conference expansions and /or realignments to come. With those changes come fewer opportunities for intersectional games. "Everybody in the country is playing a regional schedule now," Ingram said.

The Bama athletics director added, "We won't have to apologize for our schedule. In our league we have a good reputation to start with. And some of those teams that we may be able to get as a home game each year are better than a lot of those teams we would have to go on the road to play every other year. The coaches have known that for a long time and the players have begun to realize it in recent years and soon the fans will begin to realize it."

Ingram doesn't believe that playing a regional schedule will adversely affect Tide Pride, the immensely successful fund-raising program of the athletics department. "I think that with the (SEC) championship game and a quality bowl game and the conference schedule, we will be able to look back and say we had a pretty potent schedule."

Ingram said, "Our Tide Pride donor program has been outstanding. We are very close to having no seats remaining this year. And I would say either this year or next year we will be in a position where all the priorities are used up. And that's where we want to be."

There has been talk of the City of Tuscaloosa participating in an expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium in hopes of Alabama having all of its home games in Tuscaloosa. Currently Alabama has a contract into the next century to play three games per year (including the Auburn game in the years when it is Bama's home game) at Legion Field. In exchange for that contract the City of Birmingham spent some $14 million to improve and expand Legion Field, including parking.

"We looked at the situation very closely before we signed the contract," Ingram said. "Birmingham did everything we asked of them. You also must consider that Legion Field has played an important role in the tradition of Alabama football for a long, long time. Way back when we needed Legion Field it was available to us. They were loyal to Alabama football. You don't turn your back on loyal friends. When it comes time to make the next decision, I don't think it will be a difficult one; it will work itself out."

Ingram also pointed out that the Tuscaloosa group studying the expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium began its work on its own initiative, not at the request of The University. Both Ingram and University President Dr. Roger Sayers have provided input to the committee "at their request."

Ingram said the next expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium, which is not currently scheduled, will be an increase of 14,000 to 16,000 seats to the present 71,000.

Meanwhile, Alabama will continue to be a favorite of the various television networks covering college football. This year Bama games will be seen on ABC, ESPN cable and WTBS cable. (Florida on ESPN

Will The Auburn game move?

There has been some talk of the Alabama-Auburn game being moved in 1992 in order that if either Alabama or Auburn is in the Southeastern Conference Football Championship Game the team would have an off week before that game. Beginning in 1992 the SEC will have a championship game between winners of the East and West regions to determine the champion and Sugar Bowl representative. The 1992 game will be in Birmingham December 5, a week after Alabama hosts Auburn at Legion Field on November 28. One report had Auburn suggesting the Alabama-Auburn game be moved back one or two days, to Friday or to Thanksgiving, Thursday.

Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram has chatted briefly with Auburn Athletics Director Pat Dye about a switch. However, Ingram opposes moving the game to either Thursday or Friday. "I think people would probably accept playing the game on a holiday, but I would be opposed to playing it on a normal Thursday," Ingram said. "That's a work day for a lot of people and not a natural time to play a game. I think Thursday would be more convenient for the coaches and players, but inconvenient for the fans."

Ingram believes a better plan is to decide when the teams want an open date. If they want the open date before playing each other, leave things as they are. "In the middle of the season you may play two tough teams back-to-back without a break," Ingram said. "I think a team with an off week could play two straight weeks." However, Ingram said if the teams want to do away with the off week after the 10th game in order to have a break before the championship game (which, at best, only one will play in), he would also support that decision. "To me, those two alternatives are open for discussion before playing on Thursday," Ingram said.

and Georgia on ABC have already been announced.) Additionally, it is highly likely that several games will be televised on Alabama cable systems on the Tide's Pay-Per-View setup. Ingram thinks a Pay-Per-View schedule may begin to materialize about mid-September. "I'm sure we'll do a couple or three games," Ingram said.

A big item on Ingram's agenda for the next year is Alabama's celebration of its Football Centennial. In 1992 Alabama will mark its 100 years of football competition with the theme, "Century of Champions." Ingram said, "I've talked to Notre Dame, Tennessee, Ohio State, and a half dozen other schools that have had centennials over the last several years. From what I've heard and observed, this will be the most organized, most thorough centennial of any of them. A broad-based committee appointed by (University) President (Roger) Sayers has been working for over a year on this project. It is going to be a tremendous thing for The University; for our football team, certainly, because we will be showcasing many of the people who made the program what it is; but also for the entire University because a tremendous financial benefit will go to general fund scholarships.

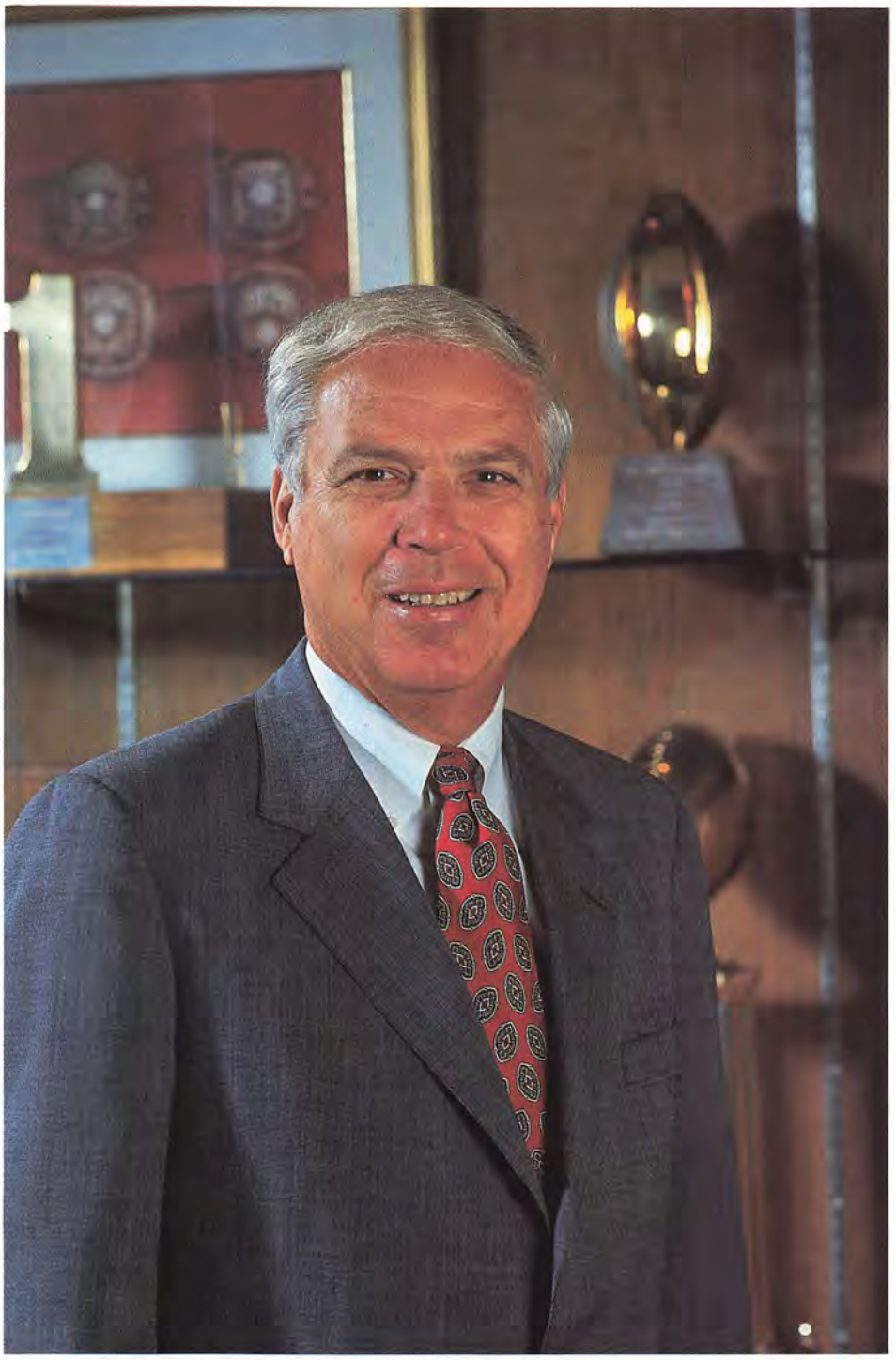
"It will be done like only Alabama or Notre Dame could do it. We're going to take advantage of the football heritage we have here."

Academic performance by athletes is a hot topic, and it's also high on the Ingram agenda. A year ago Alabama reorganized its academic support system, putting it under the office of academic affairs for The University. "We're not where we want to be, and I don't know if you ever are, but we've shown a lot of improvement in a lot of different areas," Ingram said. He said the overall grade point average of athletes increased by three-tenths of a point in the past year and that there was a significant increase in the number of athletes with overall averages of 3.0 (B) or higher. "We've got a higher percentage than we had who are moving up," Ingram said. "I don't mean just getting people to barely pass so they'll be eligible, but rather picking up on the upper end. We had significantly more athletes on the SEC Academic Honor Rolls than we ordinarily do, we had a golfer, Lynn Bradley, who won two $5,000 post graduate scholarships and a diver, Mark Rourke, who won a national post graduate scholarship. We're making a real effort to spot our athletes with this potential and lead them into that kind of academic development. I hope this kind of progress leads to higher graduation rates, which is the scoreboard everyone looks at, and I believe that is something we will be very proud of in two or three years."

Of course, Ingram is well aware that many watch scoreboards other than the graduation rate. And he is satisfied with the direction Alabama's overall athletics program is headed.

"It appears we've got a couple of sports that are still trying to get back up there, but I think we're making progress," he said. "It's difficult to make quick progress sometimes, but I think we're working in the right direction.

"You're not going to be 100 per cent happy until you win the championship in every sport and all the kids make all As and all of them graduate. We want to get kids who want to get a degree and win big too. I'm dumb enough to think you can still do that."



Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram oversees a variety of areas in his quest to have championship teams, meaningful academic progress and a balanced budget. It is not an easy task.

Barry Fikes Photo

Cross Country Outlook:

Tide Has To Overcome Bad Luck

by Becky Hopf

Both men's and women's teams have lost expected top performers to injuries

David Troy came by the sport of cross country naturally. "In 1963 I was a high school freshman, and the only fall sports were football and cross country," Troy said. "At the time I was 5-1 and weighed 85 pounds. I went out for cross country."

The sport has been good to Troy and Troy has been good for the sport, particularly as Alabama's head cross country coach since 1986. He inherited a talent-loaded woman's program that he took to back-to-back Southeastern Conference titles. Since then Troy has kept the women's team among the best in the league. He put the Tide men's distance program on the map. In 1988 Alabama not only qualified its men's team for nationals, but the Tide finished seventh in the nation.

This year's teams have already suffered setbacks. In 1990 Troy's women's recruiting class appeared to be perfect. With a roster of five freshmen, a junior and a senior, Alabama finished third in the conference. Lost to graduation was two-time All-SEC performer Kristen Seabury, but sophomores Tanya Anderson, Vicky Lynch, Heather Shutt and twins Malin and Marie Ohlund returned along with junior Tami Van Senus. Additionally, Troy felt he had filled the vacancy left by Seabury with Sian Pilling, a transfer from Oxford University. He also signed the state's top prospect, Huntsville's Ashley Patrick, and added Robyn Saller, a redshirt freshman Troy discovered running on campus. However, there has been a hitch. Malin Ohlund, who was All-SEC as a freshman, has a slow-healing stress fracture of the arch and will miss the season.

"I thought she'd be a pretty solid leader for this group," said Troy. "I believe Vicky and Marie, neither of whom had any cross country experience prior to last year, will run much better this year. Heather Shutt improved a lot this past season, placing fifth in the 10,000 (in the SEC) on the track, so I think we can look for better things from her. Tami Van Senus did not have a spectacular year last year after a good freshman season and she was injured in track so she is something of a question mark. But if she'll return to her freshman level, she'll be a very solid runner for us.

Malin Ohlund

German Beltran

"I think the women's team can still be a good one. But you don't take away your number one runner and not suffer from it. That's disappointing, but we've got two new ones coming and that should help us in terms of depth. And I think Sian can help us up front. And I expect a lot more out of our girls who were freshmen last year. I think they'll run a lot better. All-in-all, it could be a surprising season.

The men's team has also suffered bad luck before the season begins. Last year the Tide was a surprise, finishing fourth in the Southeastern Conference. However, Bama lost its top performer, German Beltran, who had finished third nationally in 1989. Beltran suffered a foot injury in regional qualifying. Despite the injury he again qualified for the national championship race, but had to drop out. The injury caused him to have to sit out all of the indoor and outdoor seasons last year. However, nine months of healing was not enough. In late August it was determined Beltran must have surgery on the foot and he will miss all of this season.

"German (pronounced Her-MANN) has been not only our number one competitor in races, but he sets the tone in every practice we have," Troy said.

Cern Basher and Everett Whiteside will now vie for numbers one and two on the men's team. Both had successful outdoor track seasons, running the 10,000 in under 30 minutes. Eddie Terrell, redshirt Bob Watson, Mark Berlinski, Lawrence Lenin and David Allen will vie for numbers three, four and five.

"The view isn't quite so optimistic," said Troy who credits Beltran as a major factor in the emergence of Alabama as a valid men's program in cross country. "It's certainly a question mark this year as to what we can accomplish. Beyond Basher and Whiteside, we don't really have any proven cross country runners.

"Last season, we only ran up to our potential in one meet, the regional meet, and we ran about as good as we could run in it. We just got beat by five better teams, and that's because we are in a very tough region here. We lost two guys off that group, Guy and Marc. Largely because of some shifting emphasis in filling out some needs for the track team, we didn't have a lot of money available for distance runners, and frankly we missed on a couple of people that we really went after. So there's not a whole lot of new coming in. Really, the only newcomer is Mark Berlinski. He was one of the top runners out of upstate New York and really had a fine track season up until the state meet. He's got good cross country experience and he's going to have to come in and help us out this year as a freshman."

Troy says if Alabama is to remain as successful as it has been some people will have to run better than even he would expect them to run. But he's open to that surprise and he's no stranger to such pleasantries. His second season at Alabama, a team that didn't pan out as talent laden on paper turned heads with a fifth place SEC team in a year where there was a sharp division in the conference between the top four and the bottom six. He thought Alabama could easily have finished eighth or ninth that year. And, just last season, his mostly freshman women's team did shake things up en route to its third place SEC finish.

"The first thing we are going to have to do is overcome the discouragement of losing German, and that's going to take a while. People have come to depend upon him."

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❑ $15,000 - $19,999 ❑ $35,000 - $39,999 ❑ $75,000 - $99,999
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❑ Boat ❑ Video/Camera Equipment
❑ Sporting Equipment ❑ Appliances
❑ Camper/RV ❑ Stocks, CD's, etc.
❑ New Home ❑ Computer – ❑ Home ❑ Office
❑ Vacation/Resort Property ❑ Exercise Equipment

HOW MANY VEHICLES DO YOU OWN?
_____ Cars _____ Vans _____ Trucks _____ RVs

WHAT MAKE? (Check all that apply)
❑ Ford ❑ Plymouth ❑ Hyundai ❑ Jeep
❑ Chevy ❑ Toyota ❑ Mercury ❑ Eagle
❑ Chrysler ❑ Mitsubishi ❑ Mercedes ❑ Jaguar
❑ Buick ❑ Isuzu ❑ Saab ❑ Lexus
❑ Cadillac ❑ Nissan ❑ Volvo ❑ Infinity
❑ Oldsmobile ❑ Mazda ❑ BMW ❑ Lincoln
❑ Dodge ❑ Honda ❑ Porshe ❑ Other

WHICH SPORTS ACTIVITIES DO YOU ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN?
(Check all that apply)
❑ Golfing ❑ Snow Skiing ❑ Bicycling
❑ Fishing ❑ Snow Mobile ❑ Hiking/Backpacking
❑ Boating ❑ Running ❑ Camping
❑ Tennis ❑ Softball ❑ Home Exercise Equipment
❑ Weight Training ❑ Scuba Diving ❑ Soccer
❑ Racquetball ❑ Aerobics ❑ Basketball
❑ Water Skiing ❑ Swimming ❑ Bowling

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU READ IN ADDITION TO THIS PUBLICATION?
❑ Time ❑ Life ❑ Sports Illustrated
❑ People ❑ Newsweek ❑ Playboy
❑ Inside Sports ❑ Sporting News ❑ Golf
❑ Golf Digest ❑ Tennis ❑ Esquire
❑ GQ ❑ Other _____

WOULD YOU LIKE SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION ON OTHER COLLEGE SPORTS PUBLICATIONS? ❑ Yes ❑ No

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TV SPORTS DO YOU WATCH MOST OFTEN? (Check only the top three)
❑ NFL Pro Football ❑ NCAA/CFA College Football
❑ Major League Baseball ❑ NBA Pro Basketball
❑ NCAA College Basketball ❑ Professional Golf
❑ Professional Tennis ❑ Car Racing
❑ Bowling

WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR NEXT VACATION?
❑ Northeast ❑ Southwest ❑ Mid-Atlantic
❑ N. California ❑ Southeast ❑ S. California
❑ Midwest ❑ Caribbean ❑ Canada
❑ Europe ❑ Other _____

DO YOU TRAVEL FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES?
❑ Yes ❑ No How Often? _____

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A MEMBERSHIP TO CSAN, ASSUMING THE COST PER YEAR WERE $29.95 AND YOU WOULD RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS?
- Subscription information on other college sports publications
- Discounts on airfare, car rental, and hotel accommodations year-round
- A quality, sports related premium or gift
- A window sticker, certificate of membership, and membership card
- Restaurant discount coupons for CSAN members only

❑ Yes ❑ No

If yes, where would we send membership information?
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ALA

A Look At 125 Prep Footballers

Once again this year, G&W Recruiting Report, a Pennsylvania service, has provicded us (and similar publications for other college football teams) with a list of its top pre-season high school football prospets.

'BAMA cannot vouch for the accuracy of this or any other list of prep prospects. However, over the years G&W has done a thorough job in attempting to keep up with the major college prospects across the country and the names on this list are frequently seen on other regional, national and state recruiting reports. Players thought to be interested in Alabama (and Alabama interested in them) are in *italics*.

This list and any other list you have already seen or will see in the near future will be subject to substantial change as players develop or fail to develop both on the football field and in the classroom.

In upcoming issues we will attempt to provide you with occasional lists as these, as well as our own reports on the top prospects in Alabama, the Southeast and around the nation. This list is alphabetical by position and includes the players' names, heights, weights, hometowns, schools.

Quarterbacks

Eric Boykin	6-3	200	Dayton Meadowdale, Ohio
Chuck Clements	6-3	175	Huntsville, Texas
Ryan Driscoll	6-4	185	Linn-Mar, Iowa
Kevin Foley	6-1	175	Cherry Hill East, N.J.
Tommie Frazier	6-1	175	Bradenton Manatee, Fla.
Eric Gray	6-3	180	Houston Aldine, Texas
Craig Hancock	6-4	185	Pueblo Centennial, Colo.
Rodney Hudson	6-2	180	LaGrange, Ga.
Eric Kresser	6-3	200	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Barry Lunney Jr.	6-2	180	Tucson Santa Rita, Ariz.
DeAndre Singleton	6-1	175	East St. Louis, Ill.
Steve Taneyhill	6-4	200	Altoona, Pa.
Chris Walsh	6-3	180	St. Paul Cretin Hall, Minn.

Linemen

Frank Bjoring	6-7	280	Tabb, Va.
John Browning	6-7	240	Miami Jackson, Fla.
Jeff Buckey	6-5	270	Bakersfield, Calif.
Kendrick Burton	6-6	265	Hartselle, Ala.
Shannon Clavelle	6-4	250	New Orleans Walker, La.
James Darby	6-5	315	Steamwood, Ill.
Reggie Green	6-7	325	Bradenton Southeast, Fla.
Thomas Guynes	6-4	285	Kankakee Bishop McNamara, Ill.
Tremayne Hyder	6-3	245	Greer, S.C.
Jeff Jenkins	6-4	265	Monroe Ouachita Christian, La.
Anthony Jones	6-5	250	Oak Lawn Richards, Ill.
Marcus Jones	6-6	265	Jacksonville SW Onslow, N.C.
Brian Jurewicz	6-6	245	Deerfield, Ill.
Marcus Long	6-4	265	Daytona Beach Mainland, Fla.
Pete Marczyk	6-4	285	Absecon Holy Spirit, N.J.
Clark Masters	6-4	260	Denver Mullens, Colo.
Henry McCann	6-6	285	Moss Point, Miss.
Eddie Mosley	6-6	230	Memphis Tresvant, Tenn.
Jonathan Ogden	6-8	315	Washington, D.C. St. Albans
Ceasar O'Neal	6-8	295	Huntsville, Texas
Ken Payne	6-6	250	St. Louis Lindburgh, Mo.
Collins Peaden	6-4	270	College Park Woodward Acad., Ga.
Brandon Reyna	6-4	290	Bellingham, Wash.
Walter Rouse	6-3	266	Cordele Crisp County, Ga.
Korey Stringer	6-4	280	Warren Harding, Ohio
Pat Thompson	6-3	280	Marrero Ehret, La.
Walter Trotter	6-1	280	Indianapolis Warren Central, Ind.
Chris Turner	6-4	255	Decatur SW Dekalb, Ga.
Aaron Wade	6-7	280	Wheatridge, Colo.
Joe Wells	6-5	295	Arroyo Grande, Calif.
Eric Wendt	6-4	275	Cincinnati Moeller, Ohio
Cedric White	6-4	255	Los Angeles Dorsey, Calif.
Ronnell Williams	6-5	255	Virginia Beach Bayside, Va.
Dusty Ziegler	6-5	250	Springfield Effingham County, Ga.

Linebackers and Defensive Ends

John Bates, Jr.	6-3	215	Sevierville Sevier County, Tenn.
Henri Crockett	6-3	235	Pompano Beach Ely, Fla.
James Cuttino	6-3	255	Mt. Vernon, N.Y.
Scott Fields	6-3	210	La Puente Bishop Amat, Calif.
Scott Freeney	6-3	230	Athens Clarke Central, Ga.
James Gillyard	6-3	210	Shreveport Woodlawn, La.
Terry Harvey	6-3	220	Detroit Denby, Mich.
Cedric Jones	6-4	235	Houston Lamar, Texas
Chris Koeppen	6-0	220	Oak Lawn Richards, Ill.
Ryan Luzinski	6-1	225	Delran Holy Cross, N.J.
Jon McGee	6-3	220	Tucson Amphitheatre, Ariz.
Shun Pennington	6-3	220	Hayward, Calif.
Antonio Ragland	6-3	235	Detroit Chadsey, Mich.
Albert Reese	6-6	225	Prichard Vigor, Ala.
Travis Sherman	6-2	210	Valrico Bloomingdale, Fla.

Linebackers and Defensive Ends (cont.)

Ronnie Smith	6-1	240	Athens Cedar Shoals, Ga.
Leland Taylor	6-5	230	Fairdale, Ky.
John Walters	6-2	215	Richardson Lake Highlands, Texas
Chris Ward	6-3	240	Decatur SW Dekalb, Ga.

Defensive Backs

Ron Brockington	6-0	185	Hempstead, N.Y.
Dallan Buchanan	6-0	180	Memphis Frayser, Tenn.
Oscar Commings	6-1	185	Altus, Okla.
Dugan Fife	6-3	180	Clarkston, Mich.
Reggie Funderburk	5-11	170	Minneapolis Edison, Minn.
Sean Hamlett	6-2	190	Hampton, Va.
Leotis Harris Jr.	6-2	195	Little Rock Central, Ark.
Raylen Hicks	5-11	170	Minneapolis Edison, Minn.
Ty Howard	5-11	175	Columbus Briggs, Ohio
Anthony Jones	6-0	180	Granada Hills Kennedy, Calif.
Lamont Johnson	5-11	180	Athens Clarke Central, Ga.
Ty Law	6-1	180	Aliquippa, Pa.
Ron Neely	5-11	180	Glen Mills, Pa.
Steve Scott	6-0	180	St. Mary's Camden County, Ga.
Bobby Taylor	6-4	190	Longview, Texas
Erik Thomas	5-11	180	Quartz Hill, Calif.
Sherrad Wyatt	6-3	185	Dallas Carter, Texas

Receivers

Darren Ashford	6-0	170	Park Forest Rich East, Ill.
Trency Clough	5-10	160	Marshall, Texas
Juan Daniels	6-2	175	Norcross, Ga.
Mike Earhardt	6-4	190	Eugene Williamette, Ore.
Luke Fickell	6-4	230	Columbus DeSales, Ohio
Brandon Jessie	6-5	220	Huntington Beach Edison, Calif.
Greg Jones	6-6	210	Denver Kennedy, Colo.
David LaFleur	6-6	250	Lake Charles Westlake, La.
Derrick Mayes	6-3	190	Indianapolis North Central, Ind.
Mike McDaniels	6-2	190	Oklahoma City Marshall, Okla.
Adam Meadows	6-6	235	Powder Springs McEachern, Ga.
Monte Means	6-2	185	Union, S.C.
Omar Provitt	6-0	170	Warren Harding, Ohio
Albert Smith	6-0	175	W. Des Moines Dowling, Iowa
Erick Strickland	6-3	190	Bellevue West, Neb.
Amani Toomer	6-2	175	Concord DeLaSalle, Calif.
Tamarick Vanover	6-0	175	Tallahassee Leon, Fla.

Running Backs

Eric Billingsley	5-8	170	Gary Wallace, Ind.
Marc Bridges	5-9	180	Little Rock Central, Ark.
Daymon Carter	6-2	200	Henderson County, Ky.
Mike Cosey	5-10	180	Lawrence, Kan.
Robert Davis	5-11	180	Homewood, Ala.
Steve Davis	6-2	210	Spartanburg, S.C.
David Dotson	5-11	180	Moreno Valley, Calif.
Ty Douthard	6-2	190	Cincinnati LaSalle, Ohio
Woody Hankins	5-10	180	Owasso, Okla.
Terry House	6-1	205	New Orleans Abramson, La.
Chris Jaquillard	6-0	205	Toledo Woodward, Ohio
Brian Knuckles	6-3	190	West Charlotte, N.C.
Essex :Law	6-1	205	Rochester, Pa.
Artie Moore	5-8	190	Wiggins Stone County, Miss.
Chris Moore	5-9	180	East St. Louis, Ill.
Leron Rodgers	5-9	175	Tulsa Washington, Okla.
Pathon Rucker	6-0	170	Glendale, Calif.
Marvin Sims	5-10	185	Apple Valley, Minn.
Gary Taylor	6-0	170	San Diego Morse, Calif.
Kwell Thompson	5-11	190	Houston Lamar, Texas
Shaw Walters	6-2	215	Arlington Lamar, Texas
Louis Willard	6-0	215	Grove City, Ohio

History Of Alabama Athletics:

'71 Tide Got Off On Right Foot

by Kirk McNair

Few Tide victories can match the 1971 conquest of Southern Cal as the wishbone was unveiled

On January 1, 1971, the Alabama football team loaded up on an airplane in Houston, Texas, to return to Tuscaloosa following a 24-24 tie with Oklahoma in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl. At that time both Bama and OU were erstwhile football powers fallen on hard times. The Crimson Tide had just come off its second five-loss season, the first loss of the year a humiliating 42-21 setback at the hands of Southern Cal in Birmingham. Oklahoma was trying to make its comeback to respectability on the strength of a new offense, the wishbone as developed at the University of Texas.

Alabama Head Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant ordinarily rode on the last row of the Alabama team plane, but on this trip took a seat in the middle of the craft. Following takeoff he reached into his large leather briefcase and extracted the typed play-by-play and final statistics of the previous evening's game. After an examination of the report, he reached for a yellow legal pad and felt-tipped pen. For the remainder of the flight Bryant etched the Os of the wishbone offense that had run up 349 rushing yards against his Bama defense.

However, that spring it was business as usual in Alabama football practice, no drastic change in the Crimson Tide offense. Then that summer, Bryant flew to Austin, Texas, to meet with Texas Head Coach Darrell Royal and his top offensive chief, Emory Bellard. Later that summer Royal and Bellard would come to Tuscaloosa, ostensibly as lecturers in the famed Alabama Coaching Clinic, but more than that to meet with Bryant and three Alabama assistant coaches–quarterback coach Mal Moore, running backs coach John David Crow and offensive line coach Jimmy Sharpe. A few days before Crimson Tide players reported for August workouts, Bryant made the decision: Alabama would sink or swim with the wishbone offense.

Moore had taken over the responsibility of coaching quarterbacks the previous spring after Steve Sloan left the staff and

Johnny Musso (22) was a coach's dream and then-Alabama Assistant Coach John David Crow (left) never appreciated Musso's value more than in the 1971 opening game against Southern Cal. It was Bama's first game in the wishbone offense and Crow was the assistant coach in charge of the gameplan for that monumental game.

University of Alabama Photo

Terry Davis

John Mitchell

Robin Parkhouse

Terry Rowell

Steve Higginbotham

Bill Oliver came in to coach the secondary. Junior Terry Davis was the quarterback with the most experience and, Moore remembered, "We didn't feel that our offense was really suited to Terry's strength. Coach Bryant had determined that we would go to some sort of option game."

Johnny Musso, who had rushed for 1,137 yards from Bama's I-formation attack in 1970, remembered being excited about the new offense. "Coach Bryant told us we could win seven or eight games in our old offense, or we could have a great team with the wishbone," Musso said. "After that first drive against Southern Cal I think we got a lot of confidence in the offense. Not that anyone doubted Coach Bryant, but after that game his credibility was proved."

Alabama did its best to keep the new offense a secret prior to its opening game. Musso still remembers with amusement the Tide going back to its old offense for practice on a day when sports reporters from throughout the Southeast made their annual preseason "Skywriters" stop in Tuscaloosa. The Tide had a monumental task facing it, venturing to Los Angeles to take on the Southern Cal team of Coach John McKay that had decimated the Tide a year earlier. There were a few slips, but McKay would say later he thought the rumor of Bama switching to the wishbone offense was a Bryant smokescreen and the Trojans did not plan for the run-oriented triple option attack.

Prior to the game the Los Angeles newspapers were full of columns suggesting that the 1970 game had proved Alabama was overrated and that the Tide had no business on the field with the Trojans. There were also notes that Bryant would be looking for his 200th career victory, though most thought it would not come until the following week, when Alabama would be back in Tuscaloosa hosting Southern Miss. Bryant told one columnist "I'm more worried about my 300th win than I am my 200th." The Alabama head coach also said "I think I'll be remembered for helping build Alabama back, but I sure would like to be remembered for building them back the second time. I want to have some more champions."

Alabama had been the team of the 1960s under Bryant, winning national championships in 1961, 1964 and 1965 and going undefeated in 1966. But the best was yet to come.

Bama and Southern Cal played on Friday night, September 10, the day before Bryant's 58th birthday. Los Angeles newspapers reported Southern Cal as a 12-point favorite. The newspapers also reported that many of the 7,000 Crimson Tide fans in the crowd of 67,781 at the Los Angeles Coliseum had stopped over in Las Vegas en route to Los Angeles to take advantage of that pointspread.

Most of the preseason magazines had not picked Alabama among the nation's elite, despite the fact the Tide had the likes of halfback Johnny Musso and offensive guard John Hannah. Back-to-back mediocre seasons then (as now) were the primary criteria used by the prognosticators.

There was particular interest in two new Alabama players that year. Prior to the 1970 season Alabama had signed a running back from Ozark, Wilbur Jackson. He was Bama's first black football signee. In those days freshmen were ineligible for varsity competition and so Jackson's first game to dress out would be the opener against Southern Cal. The Tide had added another black player to the varsity roster that year, defensive end John Mitchell. Mitchell, who was from Mobile, had gone to Eastern Arizona Junior College and been recruited by, among others, Southern Cal. Mitchell started the game for Alabama, thus becoming the first black football player to see action for the Crimson Tide.

In various polls to determine the biggest victories in Alabama's football history, a handful are always going to show up: Bama's 1922 victory over Penn in Philadelphia, generally credited as the game that put Alabama (and Southern) football on the map; the Tide's 20-19 win over Washington in the 1926 Rose Bowl; the 10-0 victory over Auburn in 1959 that re-established the Crimson Tide as the state's top football team; the 39-28 win over Nebraska in the 1966 Orange Bowl to give the Tide the 1965 national championship; the 31-7 win over Auburn in a battle of undefeated teams to close out the 1971 season; the 14-7 victory over Penn State in the 1979 Sugar Bowl to give Bama the 1978 national title; the 28-17 victory over Auburn in 1981 that made Bryant the all-time winningest coach in college football history; and the 21-15 win over Illinois in the 1982 Liberty Bowl to close out Bryant's career.

Alabama's 17-10 victory over Southern Cal to start the 1971 season takes a back seat to none of those. It was a victory that restored Alabama football and paved the way for another incredible decade of Crimson Tide football.

Heroes were aplenty in Bama's upset victory. While 42 players saw action in the game, the bulk of playing time at the 22 offensive and defensive positions was done by 27 players. Guards John Hannah and Jimmy Rosser, tackle Buddy Brown, and quarterback Davis played every snap on offense while noseguard Terry Rowell and backs Steve Higginbotham and Steve Williams went the route on defense. Other starters, such as tackle Jim Krapf and center Jimmy Grammer, missed only a few plays.

Rowell, who played at about 180 pounds, said later, "Playing against Southern Cal was like getting blocked by a Buick on every play."

Musso was the offensive leader with 16 rushes for 85 yards and two touchdowns. Davis rushed 16 times for 59 yards and also hit 5 of 6 passes for 38 yards. Bama wasn't throwing much out

of the wishbone then, but the passes were effective. Bill Davis was good on both of his extra point tries and a 37-yard field goal.

Following the game a handful of Bama assistant coaches gathered in a room at the hotel to revel in the win. John David Crow, who had been in charge of game preparation, read the statistics to his comrades: "Musso 5.3 yards per carry, (Joe) LaBue 9.8, (Ellis) Beck 4.1, (Steve) Bisceglia 9.0, (Paul) Spivey 6.5, (David) Knapp 3.0. I'm a helluva coach!"

Davis led Alabama to scores on its first three possessions. Bama got a good start in the game with Bobby McKinney returning the opening kickoff 33 yards to the 41. The first play from the true wishbone in Alabama history was the mainstay of that attack: the triple option right, with Davis electing the final option, the pitch to Musso, who picked up seven yards. That same play would get the final 13 yards in the drive. In between the big plays were Davis keeping for 19 yards on a third-and-long (the first indication this was a new Bama offense since third-and-long had guaranteed pass or draw for many years) and completing a 16-yard pass to tight end Jim Simmons on a second down play, the first pass from the wishbone.

Steve Williams' interception stopped a Southern Cal threat, and Bama drove back into USC territory, where Bill Davis kicked Alabama to a 10-0 first quarter lead.

Bama next got the ball at its own 9-yard line. It took only 12 plays for Davis to get the Tide into the end zone. Split end David Bailey moved to tight end part of the time in the wishbone and had a 15-yard reception in the drive. Joe LaBue picked up 31 yards on two carries behind the crushing blocks of Musso, then Musso took it the final eight yards in two carries for the 17-0 lead.

Southern Cal got it back to 17-10 by halftime, but the scoring was over and Alabama would head home with one of the most shocking and most important victories in its storied football history.

Robin Parkhouse, who had played poorly against Southern Cal in 1970 and briefly quit the team following that opener, was a man possessed against the Trojans. "The Pink Panther," as the red-headed defensive end was known to his teammates, turned in 7 primary tackles and assisted on 6 others. Twice he caught the Southern Cal quarterback for losses totalling 18 yards. And he caused a fumble. That earned him Lineman of the Week honors. The Bama linebackers, Chuck Strickland and Jeff Rouzie, were also impressive, Strickland in on 12 tackles, Rouzie making 8 individual stops among his 9 tackles. Tom Surlas caused a fumble, but is probably best remembered for a play on which he didn't have anything to do with the tackle. Late in the game Southern Cal's outstanding offensive tackle, John Vella, was thrown out of the game for throwing an elbow at Surlas. The loss of Vella was also accompanied by Southern Cal being penalized, costing the Trojans a first down at the Tide 16 and taking USC out of scoring range.

Both Higginbotham and Williams turned in interceptions, and Higginbotham turned in one of the two most memorable tackles of the game. Early in the contest Sam Cunningham, who had ripped Alabama for 135 yards on 12 carries in 1970, turned the corner and headed straight for lightweight Higginbotham. The Bama cornerback met the challenge, blasting Cunningham with a chest-high tackle that put the runner on his back. However, the most memorable tackle was akin to the Ali phantom punch. USC's outstanding speedster, Lynn Swann, appeared headed for a 72-yard punt return and a touchdown to pull Southern Cal to within a point in the fourth quarter. Only David Bailey, the Tide's split end and safetyman on punts, was between Swann and the goalline. While Bailey got credit for a touchdown-saving tackle at the 15, Swann actually tripped himself in trying to get around Bailey. Moments later a penalty killed the drive.

Late in the game Parkhouse got to the quarterback, causing a fumble that was recovered by Rowell.

Alabama still had to run out the clock. Facing third and four, Davis went to the sidelines to check with Bryant. The coach's direction: give it to Musso twice. Johnny got one yard on third down, bringing up fourth and three. Again the call was to Musso, who was hit in the backfield, but churned for five yards and a first down. From there it was just a matter of Davis kneeling a couple of times before the celebration could begin.

A part of game preparation at Alabama is a rules test for the players. Prior to the Southern Cal game Coach Dude Hennessey could report that every Tide player correctly answered the final question on the test he administered. The question: Name the winner of the Alabama-Southern Cal game.

Whereas the outcome of the game was not known in many parts of the country until Sunday, wherever Alabama fans gathered it was celebration time. The top celebration was almost certainly the one in the steamy Crimson Tide locker room at The Coliseum. Cheers and tears were followed by "Happy Birthday" warbled to the head coach, then the presentation of the game ball by Musso to Bryant. Musso promised "11 more." "Let's just worry about the next one," Bryant said, characteristically. But, the Tide head coach later called the win "as satisfying a victory as I've ever had."

Bud Furillo, then sports editor of the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, led off his game story: "Paul (Bear) Bryant of Alabama, the world's best college football coach. . ."

Musso said, that game "propelled not only our team in 1971, but the whole program for the 1970s. I think that was the most exciting game my senior class had. The Auburn game that year was more gratifying for other reasons, but the Southern Cal game was the most exciting." It was the start of 10 straight Bama victories. In the 12 years in which Alabama ran the wishbone offense the Tide record was 124-19-1, including a national record 103 wins in the decade of the 1970s (including only 6 wins in the pre-wishbone 1970 season). National titles came in 1973, 1978 and 1979.

During his career, the Alabama coach frequently gave credit to the students for Crimson Tide football success. During a night practice the week of the opening game, a large crowd of Bama students arrived at the Thomas Field practice area, cheering from outside the fence. Bryant, who had an uncanny feel for such things, instructed the managers to open the gates and the pep rally poured inside around the practicing Bama players. "The feeling that night was electric," Musso said. "We were really excited that Coach Bryant let them in. We felt it was great that our fellow students were in on the secret, because we practiced the wishbone with them watching."

Following the victory, which came in the wee hours of Saturday morning in Tuscaloosa, thousands of students poured onto the quad and into the pool in front of Rose Administration Building. University and Tuscaloosa police were alerted, but there was no trouble, just joyous celebration. Bama was back.

Saturday night the Alabama team plane taxied to a stop at the airport in Birmingham. In those pre-terrorist days security was lax and the runway was filled with appreciative Crimson Tide fans. Although the airport was filled to capacity and the roadway jammed with well-wishers, it might have been worse had Birmingham police not begun diverting traffic away from the airport hours before the arrival of the team.

The celebrants in Tuscaloosa were ready for another party Saturday night and a crowd of several thousand students gathered in front of Bryant Hall to await the arrival of the team. However, because of the jam in Birmingham, the team was over two hours late. Nevertheless, the throng waited and an impromptu pep rally congratulated the team for its monumental success.

BAMA SCORECARD

Stallings Television Show

The weekly half hour television report on Alabama football with Crimson Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings and veteran Bama announcer John Forney will be shown at more convenient times for most Alabama followers this year. In Birmingham, the highlights of Bama football will be shown twice each week, on WBRC at 2:30 p.m. and on WBMG at 10 p.m., both on Sunday. Other Sunday playbacks will be on WAAY in Huntsville at 4:40, on WEAR in Mobile at 4:30, on WHOA in Montgomery at 5:30, on WTRT in Sheffield at 5:30 and on WCFT in Tuscaloosa at 10:30 p.m.. The playback will be seen on WDHN in Dothan at 6 p.m. Monday. Out of state, it will be in Meridian, Mississippi, on WTZH at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, and in Athens, Georgia, on WNGM at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The playback will also be seen on several cable outlets, including Bay in Mobile, Comcast in Tuscaloosa, Dimension in Phoenix, Arizona, Memphis Cable in Memphis, Tennessee, Sports South throughout the Southeast, and Sunshine in Florida.

Satellite Coordinates

For those with satellite receivers, the Alabama Football Review will be transmitted on Westar 5, Transponder 24 at 4:30 p.m. each Sunday.

Tide Talk

Alabama football practices on Mondays will be a little late starting this year. Because of lab schedules for Bama players, Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings elected to begin practice in the evenings. He will be on the radio program, Tide Talk, shortly after it begins at 7 p.m. central time each Monday, then leave to go to the 8 p.m. practice. Tide Talk ends at 8 p.m. central time. The program is on radio stations throughout Alabama and in other selected markets, but even if you can't hear it you can call your question or comment in on the toll free line, 1-800-676-8433.

SEC Guess

The most amazing thing about this year's Southeastern Conference football media event, in which the head coaches of the 10 current participants and selected players discussed the upcoming season is that only 81 of some 350 media attendees bothered to vote. The second most amazing thing was how big a favorite Florida was. The Gators were an overwhelming choice for first with 60 first place votes and 764 points. Tennessee finished second (8 firsts and 655 points), Auburn third (7 and 636), Alabama fourth (5 and 583), LSU fifth (422), Georgia sixth (1 and 397), Ole Miss seventh (354), Kentucky eighth (252), Mississippi State ninth (192) and Vanderbilt tenth (88).

If you're interested, the 'BAMA pick was Alabama, Tennessee and Florida tied for first; Ole Miss fourth; Auburn and LSU tied for fifth; Georgia seventh; Kentucky and Mississippi State tied for eighth; and Vanderbilt tenth.

Tailback Siran Stacy, nose tackle Robert Stewart and linebacker John Sullins were Alabama players selected to the pre-season All-SEC team.

Cagers Report

Although basketball practice doesn't officially get started until October 15, the bounce of balls in various gyms around campus has already begun. All of Coach Wimp Sanderson's men's signees are eligible and have reported. There is one loss from last year, point guard Marcus Jones failing to meet academic requirements. Jones has reportedly transferred to Wallace Junior College in Bay Minette.

Biggest concern among Alabama followers would be point guard (where two junior college signees, Eliot Washington and Dennis Miller, are expected to battle), except that sophomore wing guard James Robinson is recovering from two surgeries since the end of last season. One was to repair damage suffered at the end of the season, the other to remove a cyst that formed in the surgery area. However, trainers report Robinson is fine, as is Robert Horry, who continued to have pain from a pulled hamstring this summer.

Incidentally, this season–the first with an expanded Southeastern Conference–there will be three champions, a West Division champion (from Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State), an East Division champion (from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee and Vanderbilt) and an SEC Tournament champion.

Tickets

While there may still be some Alabama football tickets available, perhaps some season ticket packages or even the three-game Birmingham packages, and perhaps some single game tickets for Temple, Chattanooga (you can bet there are plenty for this one), and maybe even Mississippi State, the Athletic Ticket Office is now accepting orders for basketball season tickets. A season ticket is $112 (plus $3 per *order* for postage). The address of the ticket office is P.O. Box 870394, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Early Commitment

Alabama Head Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody signed perhaps the nation's finest girls' high school player last November when he picked up Niesa Johnson, who will be a freshman this year. In July, a girl expected to be best in the nation this year said she, too, will become a Crimson Tider. Yolanda Watkins of Decatur, a two-time *Parade* All-America, announced she had selected Alabama over Tennessee, Auburn and Kentucky. The 6-2 senior-to-be led her team to records of 29-2, 29-1 and 32-1 and back-to-back state 6A championships in her three years as a starter. Last year she scored 739 points (22.4 per game) and pulled down a state record 514 rebounds and blocked 104 shots for Coach Mike Smith. She goes into her final season with an even 2,000 career points and 1,397 rebounds and is expected to finish the season as the Alabama record-holder in both categories. Although the commitment is non-binding, Watkins said she would sign with Alabama in November.

Additionally, the *Montgomery Advertiser* announced in August that Michelle Delongchamp, who currently holds the state record for scoring in girls' basketball, is transferring to Alabama. Delongchamp, who prepped at Catholic High in Montgomery, originally signed with Colgate. She will sit out this year, then have three years of eligibility remaining at Bama. Ironically, current Tider Leslie Claybrook held the state scoring record before it was broken by Delongchamp, who scored 2,685 points at Catholic.

Amateur Success

Dicky Pride, who walked on with Alabama's golf team a few years ago and who will be a senior this year, had exceptional success in the 170-man field at the United States Amateur Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Pride, a Tuscaloosan and the son of one of Alabama's longtime top amateur players, Dick Pride, reached the semifinals of the prestigious tournament before losing on the 19th hole. Additionally, Spike McRoy of Huntsville, who just finished his Alabama eligibility, made it to the final 16.

Kerns Returns

There was good news for Alabama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger when classes started at The University August 21: Outfielder Mickey Kerns went to class. That is not to say that Kerns has not been a dedicated student. However, following last season, his junior year, Kerns was drafted by Pittsburgh. But when Kerns and the Pirates were unable to come to terms, Kerns elected to return to Alabama. When he attended his first class it meant he was not eligible for professional baseball until after the completion of next spring's season.

No Fall Baseball

New NCAA rules prohibit the limited fall baseball schedule college teams have had for several years. As a result, when Alabama gets started in fall practice September 9 it will have only intrasquad games to break up the monotony of practice sessions.

Among returning Tiders who had exceptional performances in various amateur summer baseball leagues this year were catcher Tim Boge (league-leading .480 batting average and 15 home runs), outfielder

Joe Aleszczyk (second in batting and runs batted in, first in doubles and triples), shortstop Juan DeBrand, and first baseman Robbie Glenn.

Toughness

There was an interesting interview in *Spurs & Feathers*, a publication covering South Carolina athletics. Subject of the interview was South Carolina's new defensive coordinator, Tommy West, who played at Tennessee and had previous assistant coaching stops at Ole Miss and Clemson. West said:

"It seems like everybody I've worked for was connected to Coach Bryant. I played for Bill Battle at Tennessee, who had been a captain at Alabama. Then I worked for Coach (Steve) Sloan (at Mississippi), who had been a great player for Coach Bryant. Coach (Danny) Ford also played and coached for Coach Bryant. And Bill Oliver, who was on the staff at Clemson, played and coached for Coach Bryant.

"From those experiences I've seen all the traits that Coach Bryant people have and the bottom line for all of them, and I believe in it, is that toughness wins or that toughness will put you in a position to win. It can't guarantee you a victory, but it will guarantee you a chance."

Help Wanted

As part of Alabama's "Century of Champions" celebration of 100 years of football in 1992, the Alabama Sports Information Department is looking for old photographs. Any photos submitted will be copied and returned. Photographs should be sent to Century of Champions Photos, Sports Information Department, The University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Alabama Media Guide

The 1991 Alabama Football Media Guide is on sale by mail from The University's sports information office. Make $8 check payable to The University of Alabama and send your order to Media Guide, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Volleyball Under Way

The Alabama women's volleyball team was to play in the Syracuse Invitational August 30-31, then host the Crimson Tide Classic September 6-7. Bama will play Middle Tennessee State at 7 p.m. September 6, Austin Peay at 11 a.m. September 7 and Tulane at 5 p.m. September 7 in Foster Auditorium. Other home matches in September are against Auburn September 19 and Southern Miss September 20.

Cross Country Schedule

Four regular season meets are included on the Alabama men's and women's cross country schedule. Both compete at the same meets. Alabama opens in Atlanta on September 14, then hosts its annual Crimson Classic on September 28. On October 11, Alabama will compete at the Texas Invitational in Austin then close out the regular season in Clemson, South Carolina, at the Clemson Invitational. The SEC Championships take place in Athens, Georgia, on November 4. From there, Alabama vies for a berth at the NCAA Championships when it competes at the Region III Championships in Greenville, South Carolina, on November 16. Nationals are November 25 in Tucson, Arizona.

Golfers Get Started

Alabama's men's and women's golf teams get their fall schedules under way in September. The men will play in the Carpet Capital Collegiate in Dalton, Georgia, September 19-22. The women open up in the Memphis Women's Intercollegiate September 29-October 1. The Bama women will once again host a fall tournament this year, the Neva McCall Invitational at Indian Hills Country Club in Tuscaloosa. Twelve teams will compete October 6-8.

Spybey Doubles Up

In what is believed to be a first, a collegiate golf coach can now boast of being named an NCAA regional coach of the year in both men's and women's golf. Bama's Dick Spybey received notification in August that he was named District 3 (South) Coach of the Year. Spybey was the Alabama women's head golf coach before taking over the men's program in 1988. In 1987 he was named the South Region women's coach of the year after guiding the Tide to its first NCAA Tournament appearance and a ninth place finish.

Tennis Success

Alabama tennis players have found moderate success in the professional ranks this summer. Ellis Ferreira, a three-time All-America who has completed his eligibility, spent his first summer as a professional and finished first in doubles and second in singles in the USTA Segment Four Satellite. John Stimpson, who exited Bama to turn pro after the 1990 season, is now ranked number 179 in the world. Constantinos Efremoglou, who graduated in 1989, is playing Davis Cup for Greece.

Tide junior Rick Witsken competed as an amateur on Segment Four and he and his doubles partner advanced to the quarterfinals of one tournament. He earned his first ATP points in both singles and doubles and now has a world ranking. Another Tider competing as an amateur this summer, Jenny Whalen, the number one player for Bama's women's team, also earned ATP points and a world ranking.

Pan-Am Participants

A handful of Crimson Tiders took part in this year's Pan-Am Games, including women's athletics trainer Sherry Kimbro. Kimbro, who has been active in international events, was trainer for the United States Fencing Team. (And we've all heard about the Auburn fan who tried to slip into the games carrying a roll of barbed wire, claiming to be a member of the fencing team.)

Kimbro said among the current and past Alabama athletes she saw were swimmer Rita Garay and track performers Clive Wright, Stacy Bowen, Flo Hyacinth and Kareth Smith.

1991 Tide Radio Network

City	Station	Frequency
ALABAMA		
Albertville	WQSB	105.1
Alex City	WDLK-AM	1450
Alex City	WZLM-FM	97.3
Andalusia	WWSF	920
Anniston	WDNG	1450
Arab	WCRQ	92.7
Athens	WZYP	104.3
Atmore	WASG	550
Auburn	WAUD	1230
Birmingham	WZRR-FM	99.5
Birmingham	WVOK-AM	690
Brewton	WKNU	106.3
Bridgeport	WBTS	1480
Butler	WPRN-AM	1330
Butler	WQGL-FM	93.5
Calera	WBYE	1370
Carrolton	WRAG	590
Centre	WAGC	1560
Centreville	WBIB	1110
Clanton	WKLF-AM	980
Clanton	WEZZ-FM	97.7
Decatur	WAVD	1400
Demopolis	WXAL	1400
Dothan	WWNT	1450
Fayette	WLDX	990
Gadsden	WGAD	1350
Greenville	WKXN	95.9
Haleyville	WJBB	1230
Hamilton	WERH-FM	92.1
Hamilton	WERH-AM	970
Huntsville	WKGL	1450
Jackson	WHOD	1230
Jacksonville	WJXL	810
Jasper	WARF-AM	1240
Jasper	WFFN-FM	92.9
Linden	WINL	98.5
Mobile	WKSJ-AM	1270
Mobile	WKSJ-FM	94.9
Monroeville	WMFC-AM	1360
Monroeville	WMFC-FM	99.3
Montgomery	WACV-AM	1170
Montgomery	WBAM-FM	98.9
Moulton	WXKI	1190
Oneonta	WCRL-AM	1570
Oneonta	WKLD-FM	97.7
Opelika	WJHO	1400
Piedmont	WPID	1280
Red Bay	WRMG	1430
Roanoke	WELR	102.3
Robertsdale	WXWY	1000
Russellville	WJRD	920
Scottsboro	WKEA	98.3
Selma	WDXX-FM	100.1
Selma	WHBB-AM	1490
Sylacauga	WFEB	1340
Talladega	WEYY	92.7
Thomasville	WJDB	630
Troy	WTBF	970
Tuscaloosa	WRLX-AM	1230
Tuscaloosa	WFFX-FM	95.7
Tuscumbia	WVNA-FM	100.3
Tuscumbia	WVNA-AM	1590
Valley Head	WQRX	870
Winfield	WKXM	1300
Florida		
Crestview	WJSB	1050
Crestview	WAAZ	104.9
Panama City	WLTG	1430
Georgia		
Columbus	WPNX	1460
West Point	WPLV-AM	1310
West Point	WCJM-FM	100.9
Mississippi		
Bay Springs	WIZK-FM	93.5
Bay Springs	WIZK-AM	
Tennessee		
Chattanooga	WJOC	1490
Oak Ridge	WATO	1290

Schedules Of Alabama's Football Opponents

Team	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
TEMPLE Owls Philadelphia, Pa.		**@ ALABAMA** (Birmingham) 4 p.m. CDT	@ Pittsburgh	@ Clemson	Howard	Penn State	@ West Virginia	Navy		@ Syracuse	Boston College	@ Rutgers	Akron	
FLORIDA Gators Gainesville, Fla.		San Jose State	**ALABAMA** (Gainesville) 7:30 p.m. EDT (ESPN)	@ Syracuse	Mississippi State (Orlando)	@ LSU	Tennessee	Northern Illinois		@ Auburn	Georgia (Jacksonville)	Kentucky		Florida State
GEORGIA Bulldogs Athens, Ga.	Western Carolina	LSU		**@ ALABAMA** (Tuscaloosa) 7:00 CDT (ABC)	Cal-State Fullerton	Clemson	@ Ole Miss	@ Vanderbilt	Kentucky		Florida (Jacksonville)	Auburn		@ Georgia Tech
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.		@ Syracuse	SMU	LSU	**ALABAMA** (Nashville) 7:00 CDT	@ Duke	Auburn	Georgia	@ Ole Miss	@ Army	Kentucky			@ Tennessee
U-T-CHATTANOOGA Moccasins Chattanooga, Tenn.	Tennessee-Martin	Tennessee Tech		The Citadel	@ Appalachian State	**@ ALABAMA** (Birmingham) 1:30 CDT		@ Western Carolina	Marshall	Western Kentucky	@ East Tennessee State	@ Furman	VMI	
TULANE Green Wave New Orleans, La.	Ole Miss	@ Florida State	@ Mississippi State	Rice	Syracuse	SMU	**@ ALABAMA** (Tuscaloosa) 1:30 CDT	@ Southern Miss		@ East Carolina	Navy		LSU	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.		Sept. 5 @ Louisville	UCLA	Mississippi State	Auburn		@ Florida	**@ ALABAMA** (Birmingham) 1:30 CDT		Memphis State	@ Notre Dame	Ole Miss	@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	Cal State-Fullerton	Texas	Tulane	@ Tennessee	Florida (Orlando)		Kentucky	Memphis State	@ Auburn	**@ ALABAMA** (Tuscaloosa) 1:30 CST		@ LSU	Ole Miss	
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.		@ Georgia	@ Texas A&M	Vanderbilt		Florida	Arkansas State	@ Kentucky	Florida State	@ Ole Miss	**ALABAMA** (Baton Rouge) 7:00 CST	Mississippi State	@ Tulane	
MEMPHIS STATE Tigers Memphis, Tenn.	Sept. 2 @ Southern Cal	Ole Miss	@ East Carolina	Arkansas State		@ Missouri	Southern Miss	@ Mississippi State	Tulsa	@ Tennessee	Louisville	**ALABAMA** (Memphis) 2:00 CST		
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Georgia Southern		Ole Miss	@ Texas	@ Tennessee	Southern Miss	@ Vanderbilt		Mississippi State	Florida	Southwest Louisiana	@ Georgia		**ALABAMA** (Birmingham) 1:30 CDT

'BAMA

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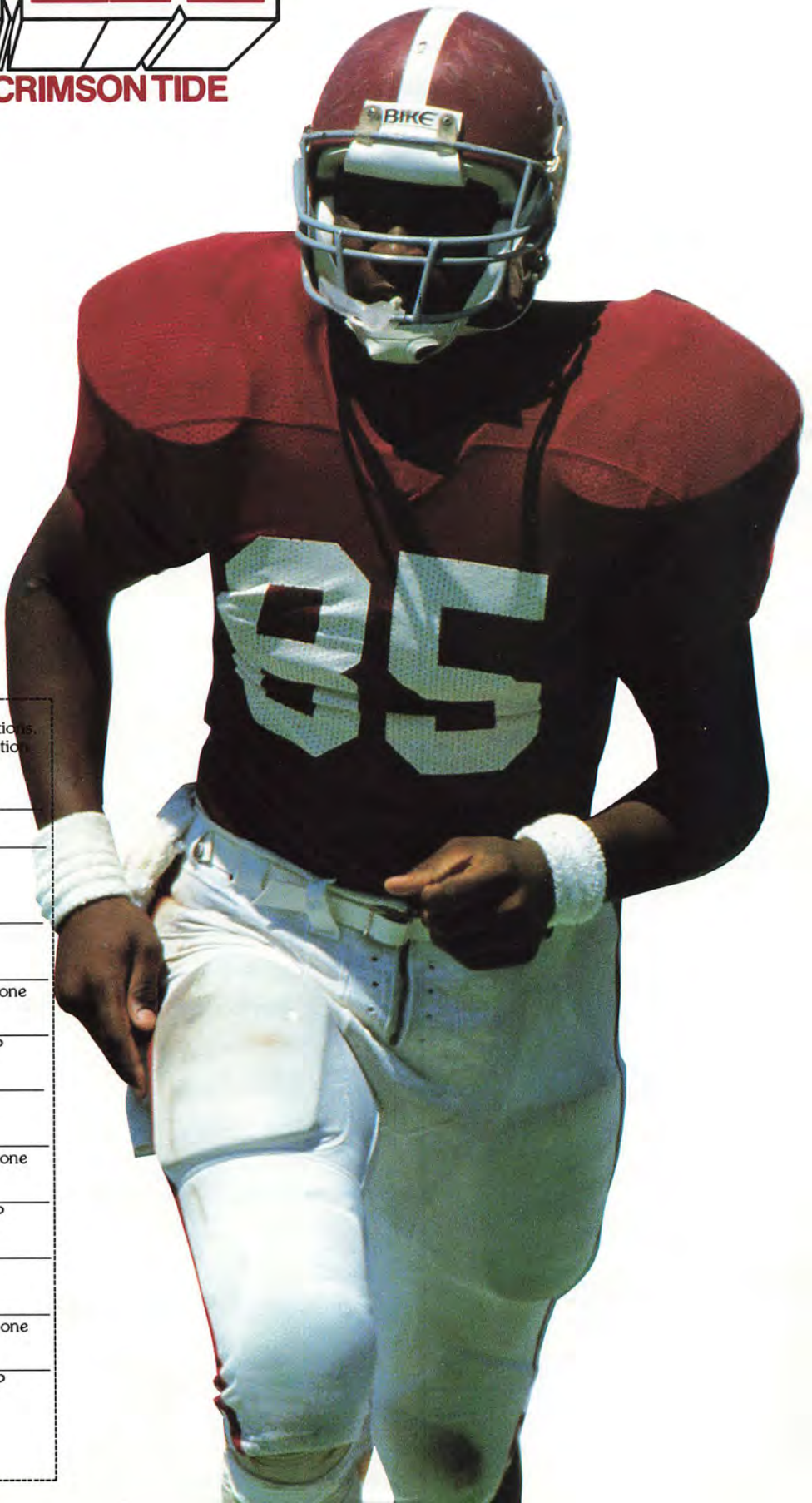

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